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IS LEX LUGER AS GOOD AS HE CAN BE?

Wrestling

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

★★★ Exclusive Preview & Analysis ★★★

SUMMERSLAM '91

SAVAGE & ELIZABETH: A Match Made In Heaven



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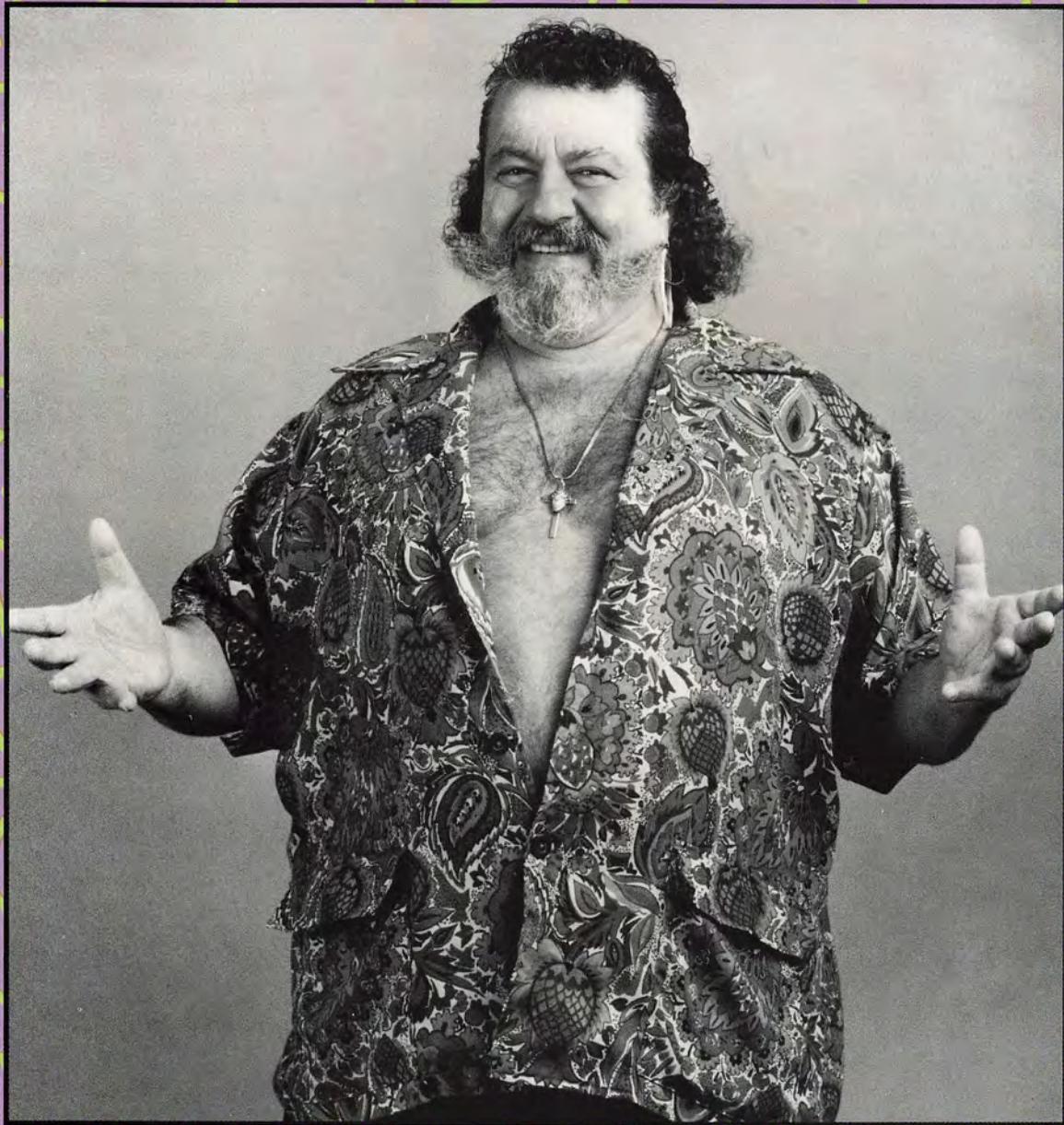


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INSIDE

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
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Wrestling

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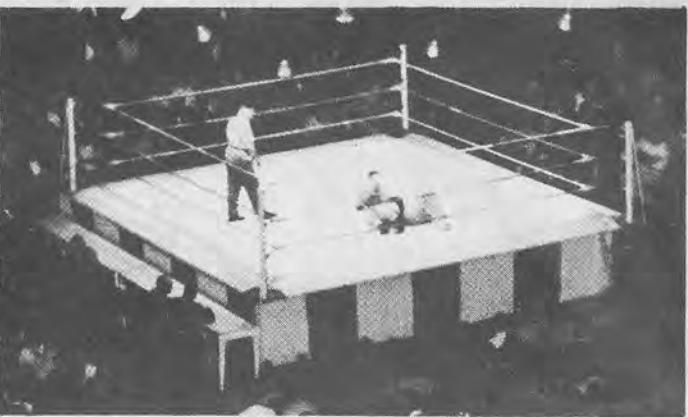
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SINCERELY YOURS

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AN EMBARRASSMENT

It has become quite a challenge recently to watch WCW. The infantile and endless bickering of Missy Hyatt and Paul E. Dangerously is both aggravating and distracting.

If this is WCW's way of admitting they cannot provide enough action within the ring to hold our interest and attention, then I certainly pity this once-proud promotion. With superb, respected commentators like Jim Ross and the venerable Gordon Solie, this sideshow of "dueling announcers" becomes even more of a disgrace.

Earlier this year, Hyatt defeated

Dangerously in an arm-wrestling contest. Previously, Jim Cornette once stripped Paul E. down to his underwear on national television. Does this guy thrive on embarrassment?

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

PUNK!

I would like to sincerely thank Paul E. Dangerously for smashing that *Wonder Years* punk, Jason Hervey, over the back of the head with his portable telephone at Clash of the Champions XV. In my opinion, he deserved it.

I'll admit that when Hervey burst upon the NWA/WCW scene in 1988, he really didn't bother anyone. He minded his own business, like any wrestling fan would.

But as the years progressed, especially over the past few months, Hervey has become a wiseguy. For example, when he was on the "Bull Drop Inn" with Dusty Rhodes, he ridiculed the guests he didn't like—like One Man Gang—because he knew that Dusty was around to protect him.

In the "Danger Zone" at the Clash, however, Hervey was on Dangerously's turf, and he didn't have Dusty to bail him out. This time, he was on the receiving end of the sarcasm and insults, and he didn't like it at all.

The fame and stardom of *The Wonder Years* have turned Hervey into a spoiled little punk. May I suggest that he change his way of thinking before he gets seriously hurt.

JOE MASON
Lake Carmel, NY

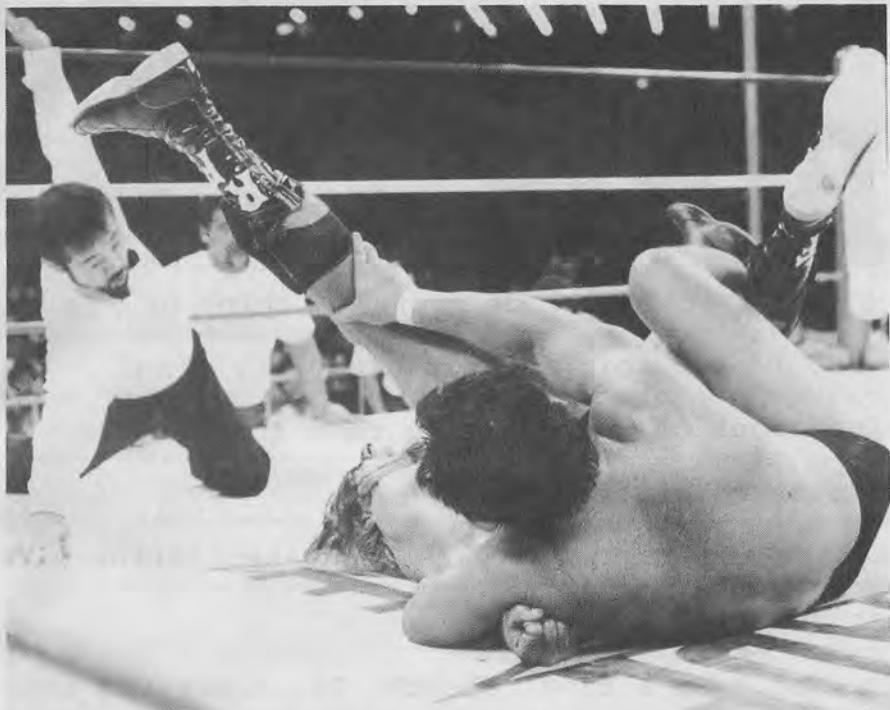
PICKY, PICKY

I've got a message for you, Mr. Craig Peters, concerning your petty scribbling in the July 1991 issue ("On The Road"): You've been on the road too long!

You will not find one normal wrestling fan who agrees with your nitpicking views of the Hulk Hogan-Sgt. Slaughter match at WrestleMania VII. Back in your May 1991 column, you addressed the concerns of the Armstrong family about their youngest son Brian, who was in the Persian Gulf. He was a true American in defending



The endless bickering between Missy Hyatt and Paul E. Dangerously disgusts reader Richard Evans, who thinks it brings dishonor upon WCW.



When WCW telecast the first encounter between Ric Flair and Tatsumi Fujinami, they covered up scenes of Flair bleeding. Reader Chris Lawson couldn't understand why.

freedom. And now you stab him and every other American fan in the back by attacking the "Hulkster," who, in case you didn't know, was fighting Slaughter for America!

Besides, you didn't even get the technicalities right. Slaughter would not have been disqualified for clotheslining Hogan over the top rope in the WWF.

And here's another point: Only about one percent of major title matches end *without* closed fists, illegal choking, using the ropes for leverage, etc. There would be no justice in a wrestling world where Slaughter kept the title by a technicality.

JASON COHEN
Lexington Park, MD

DON'T HIDE IT

About three weeks after WCW's Japan supershow, they broadcast footage of the Ric Flair-Tatsumi Fujinami World title match. The first time they showed it, you saw how Flair was busted open and bleeding. Then, about a week later, they showed it again, but this time they put a black line over Flair's face.

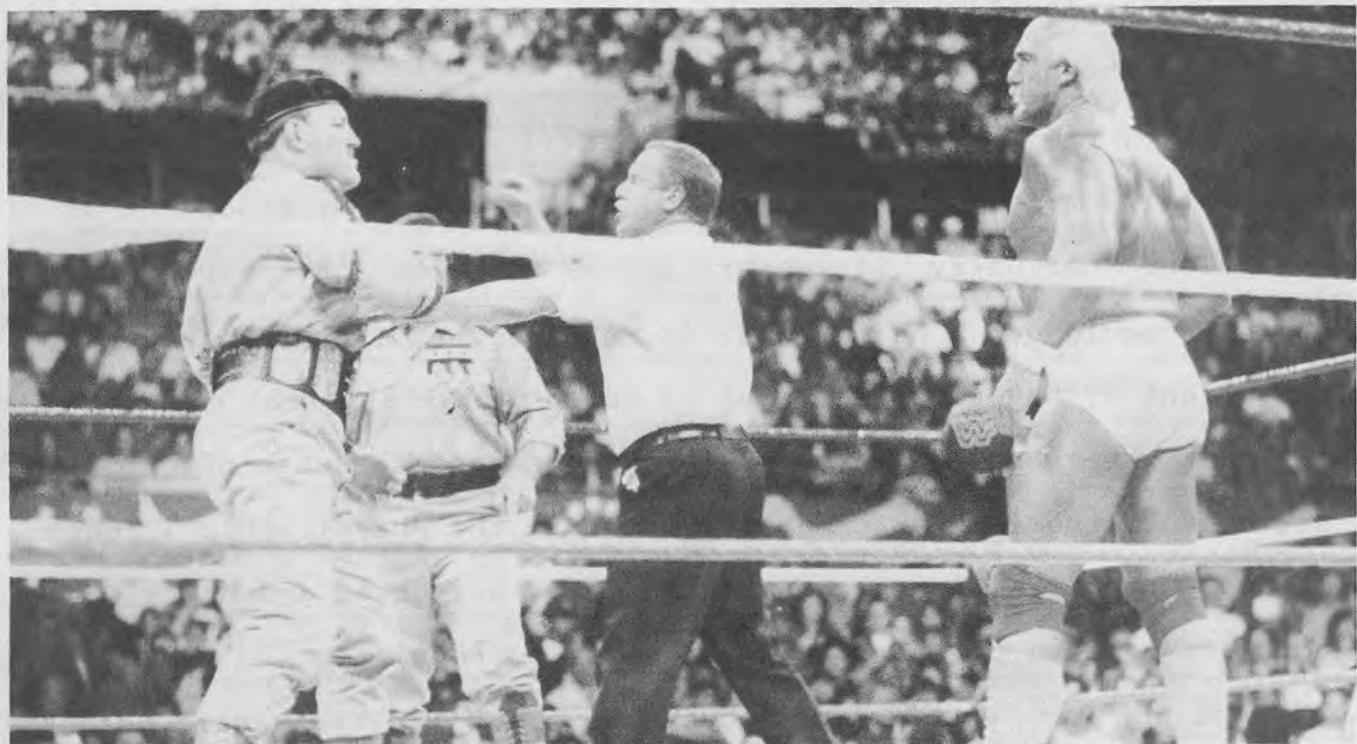
Television airs blood on the news, movies, and even boxing, so why not wrestling? Personally, I don't care if I don't see blood. But if there is going to be blood, then show it.

CHRIS LAWSON
Portsmouth, VA

BAD DECISION

Since I've started watching WWF wrestling, federation president Jack Tunney has only made two good decisions: preventing Hulk Hogan and Ultimate Warrior from having a rematch following their bout at WrestleMania VI, and picking Hogan to face Sgt. Slaughter at WrestleMania VII.

But Tunney has added to his long list of bad decisions by not suspending or fining The Undertaker and Paul (Continued on page 52)



Reader Jason Cohen says Editor-in-Chief Craig Peters went over the Hulk Hogan-Sgt. Slaughter bout at WrestleMania VII with a microscope, thereby missing the big picture.

SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

When I think of "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, of course I think of his seven World title reigns. But I also think of his glamorous ring entrances. When Ric Flair came out of the dressing room for a title defense, he was the king flaunting his royalty.

It's kind of ironic that the end of Ric Flair's long association with WCW (formerly NWA) ended so quietly.

There was no final tour, not even a final speech. Ric Flair was not beaten by a young lion like Lex Luger or Scott Steiner, a man to whom he could proudly pass the torch of greatness. In his demise there was nothing to be proud of. He had become involved in a dispute with WCW higher-ups over the terms of his contract. The dispute could not be resolved. And so Flair was gone.

Details? We have none. The nature of the disagreement is a guarded secret. Professionally, I'd like to report to you just what transpired. Personally, though, I couldn't care less.

I'm not so naive that I don't regard sport as business. But I'm not so jaded that I let the fact that it is a business ruin my enjoyment of competition. When Darryl Strawberry leaves the Mets for the Dodgers because he could get a better deal in Los Angeles, I can accept that. It might affect my favorite team, but it doesn't have any real effect on the sport. But when the WCW championship changes hands because of a business disagreement, there is an unnatural break in the championship lineage. And whoever would have won the match between Lex Luger and Barry Windham to crown a new champ, that break can never be repaired.

"To be the man, you've got to beat the man," Ric Flair said more than a few times. It's kind of sad that when it was all over, that just wasn't the case.

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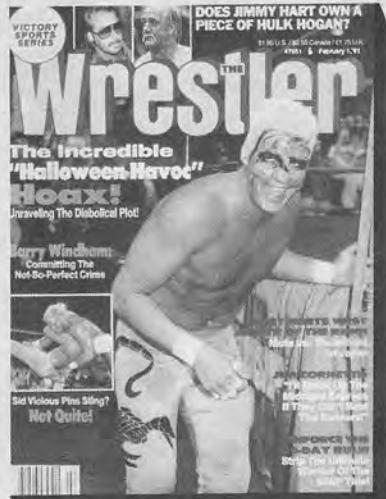
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NAMES MAKI

SINCE ENTERING WCW in the spring of 1990, 7'7" **El Gigante** has worked hard to master the sport. Even after, he worked his way into main events against **Ric Flair**, he always managed to keep his cool. Now, however, fans are seeing a new emotion from the big man: sheer hatred.

Gigante's suddenly altered demeanor stems from the actions of the monstrous 468-pound **One Man Gang**, who was brought to WCW by **Teddy Long** and the ever-demented **Kevin Sullivan**. Gang and Sullivan attacked



TEDDY LONG

Gigante after the giant defeated **Sid Vicious** at Super Brawl on May 19. That skirmish was just the first of the sneak-attacks by these vile rulebreakers.

On June 17 at the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville, Gigante had defeated young **Jim Allen** when Sullivan and OMG blindsided him again. As Sullivan held Gigante to the mat, the Gang crushed Gigante with two powerful "747" splashes. Sullivan then pulled out a barber's shear and cut off most of Gigante's hair!



GIGANTE VS. GANG & SULLIVAN

Though Gigante was unhurt, his pride was deeply wounded. After visiting a local barber—who shaved off what remained of his locks—a totally bald Gigante verbally lashed out at Gang and Sullivan to reporters.

"This time, these men have gone too far," said Gigante sternly in his rapidly improving English. "From what I can see, this One Man Gang and Sullivan are crazy. They don't care about winning, just hurting people. I can live without my hair, but Gang is going to find it hard to live without his limbs—because I am going to break them off his body."

Sullivan, who is trying to reestablish himself as a manager, couldn't be happier with the new, loonier-than-ever Gang.

"Gigante is taller, but OMG is the *real* giant in WCW," laughed Sullivan as he slapped the drooling Gang on the back. "People say I ought to be suspended, but somebody should've sus-

pended Gigante long ago—for impersonating a wrestler. Anything Gigante can do in that ring, the Gang can do twice as well."

I think Sullivan vastly underrates the Giant, but he'll have to find that out for himself.

Another man who has been underrated is **The Warlord**. Long mired in preliminary matches, the huge 6'5", 360-pound ruffian has become a top contender to **Hulk Hogan's** WWF World title. The **Slick**-managed brawler earned title matches against the "Hulkster" by defeating **Kerry Von Erich** in a recent series of bouts. Now



WARLORD VS. VON ERICH

we hear that several WWF stars are upset that Warlord has been granted title matches at this time.

"Warlord just doesn't deserve this," said a WWF wrestler who asked me not to use his name. "Why hasn't **The Undertaker** gotten a chance? He's the hottest star in the WWF. Why

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

hasn't **The Ultimate Warrior** gotten a shot since he beat Hogan at WrestleMania VI? What's worse, other worthy contenders such as **The Mountie** and **Berzerker**—who have compiled better won-lost records than Warlord—aren't even being considered. It just doesn't make sense."

After months of preparation, the new Global Wrestling Federation has made its debut. The new organization is presenting cards in Dallas, and new television programs were scheduled to start airing on ESPN in July. The GWF program is hosted by **Craig Johnson** and **Joe Pedicino** . . . Fans are wondering what former AWA women's champion **Madusa Miceli** will do next. In the LPWA, she's a rulebreaker one match and a fan favorite the next. She also recently dumped a big cream pie right in Pedicino's face! "She's become the strangest person in wrestling," moaned Pedicino, licking the pie off his face.



MADUSA MICELI

Bad news for fans of **Rick** and **Scott Steiner**, the WCW World and IWGP tag team champions. Scott suffered a ripped left bicep as the result of an attack by **Dick Slater** and **Dick Murdoch, The Hardline Collection Agency**. He'll be out of action indefinitely, and it leaves WCW without its defending tag team champions.



DICK SLATER

"This is by far the worst injury I ever had," said Scott while convalescing at his Detroit home following surgery. "I've never felt such pain, but I feel worse about being out of action. I don't know what will happen to our titles, but I want the fans to know I'll be back—and Rick and I will regain our status as the greatest team in the sport."

Also out of action is **Hawk** of **The Legion Of Doom**. He's been on the disabled list with a herniated disk . . . **Dory Funk Jr.** has been named the first commissioner of IWCCW. He's threatened to suspend manager **Tony Rumble** if the "Boston Bad Boy" doesn't stop interfering in matches . . . Have you seen **Leatherface**, the new

USWA sadist? This man brings a chainsaw to the ring with him—and threatens his opponents with it! How can matchmaker **Eddie Marlin** allow him to get away with this?

Speaking of the USWA, recovered champion **Jerry Lawler** looks great since returning to action. "The King" took off nearly two months to allow several nagging injuries to heal . . . **Brute Force** won the Georgia tag team title from **Chris Walker** and **Fabian** on June 16 in Canton. Shockingly, Walker's former partner,



CURTIS THOMPSON

"**U.S. Male**" **Curtis Thompson**, interfered on behalf of Brute Force. No loyalty . . . Japanese sensation **Jushin Riger** regained the IWGP junior heavyweight title from **Norio Honaga** on June 12 in Tokyo.

FLASH! I received a report just as this magazine was going to press that WCW has stripped **Ric Flair** of the World title! Turn to "Saks' Notebook" on page six for more details!

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

WHILE WORKING ON the October 1991 25th Anniversary edition of *The Wrestler* (shameless plug department: you really ought to pick up a copy, it's packed with an unbelievable amount of information), I was reminded of something I hadn't thought about in a while.

The Fabulous Freebirds were voted 1981's Tag Team of the Year.

I found that interesting because The Fabulous Freebirds, despite some personnel changes, are still flying high after all these years.

A scan down the list of other Tag Team of the Year winners from around that time reveals a list of teams that have long since broken apart: 1982 winners Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell, 1980 winners Jimmy Snuka and Ray Stevens, and 1979 winners Ivan Putski and Tito Santana. The only other team of that era still going strong is The Road Warriors—now known as The Legion of Doom in the WWF—who won the award three years straight beginning in 1983 (and repeated for a fourth honor in 1988).

"And that's the whole problem with you pathetic pencil-jockeys who cover this sport," growled Michael "P.S." Hayes, who has been a Freebird since the group's 1980 inception. "You latch on to a team like The Road Warriors—and Hawk and Animal are a good team, I'll give them that—but you practically canonize them in the pages of your magazines. And while you're doing that, you forget about the *real* teams that keep succeeding, year in and year out. Teams like The Fabulous Freebirds."

Indeed, Michael Hayes and company (a company that seems to be expanding quite a bit lately, what with the addition of Badstreet, Diamond Dallas Page, Big Daddy Dink, and an apparently endless supply of Diamond Dolls) are on a roll. Hayes and Jim Garvin are the current WCW U.S. tag team champions, and Hayes, Garvin, and Badstreet are the current WCW six-man tag team champions.

"We're not about to let this six-man title fade away, the way Junkyard Dog, Rick Morton, and Tommy Rich did," said Hayes. "They ran away from all the competition in WCW. Freebirds are ready for *anyone*. All the competition runs away from *us*. We're ready to take *anyone* on for the belts—anyone who has the guts, that is."

Returning to the question of historical longevity, Hayes discussed the 1981 Tag Team of the Year award.

"I remember real clearly getting the phone call that told us we won that award," Hayes recalls. "It was a close race, I remember, between me and Buddy 'Jack' [Roberts] and 'Bamm Bamm' [Terry Gordy] and Rick Martel and Tony Garea, who finished first runners-up."

In fact, only 55 votes separated the two teams in the voting.



"But I raise my point again," Hayes grumbled. "Where are Martel and Garea today? Where are the other runners-up from that year?"

Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito finished second runners-up, while Gagne and Brunzell finished third runners-up. Neither team has wrestled together in years.

Fuji has retired from competition to become a manager. Gagne is retired.

"Precisely," Hayes said triumphantly. "All of them are nowhere. Me and The Freebirds, we've been flying high ever since. That's why we're the greatest tag team of all-time, and that's why we're the greatest rock 'n' roll band of all-time, too."

I suggested to Hayes that an added decade of age hasn't necessarily made him better, it's simply enabled him to surround himself with a larger stable of individuals to protect himself against the nightly rigors of mat competition.

"That's a load of crap, and you know it," Hayes howled. (He was so angry, in fact, I thanked my lucky stars that I was interviewing him over the phone and not in person.) "I'm in there night after night, wrestling ev-



Big Daddy Dink and The Freebirds

eryone that WCW throws in front of me, and I'm still a champion, whether you like it or not."

But what about Badstreet, whose interference enabled the 'Birds to claim the World tag team title and later the six-man belts?

"You know, I'm just about fed up with your crap, Peters," Hayes snarled. "Just leave me the hell alone. Go write another story on The Legion of Doom, or the Steiners. Punks like you, [Bill] Apter, and all the rest make me want to vomit."

The slam of the receiver on the other end of the phone line made me cringe—and told me more about Hayes and his team's reasons for having Badstreet around than any quote possibly could. □

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

IT ISN'T TOO often that Bam Bam Bigelow expresses admiration for his opponent, but that's exactly what happened after Bigelow lost to Steve "Dr. Death" Williams at the UWF's Beach Brawl on June 9 in Palmetto, Florida.

The match was extremely important for both men. It was for the UWF's newly created television title, and it was a match Williams and Bigelow sorely wanted to win.

For Williams, it meant the opportunity to return to the championship ranks in this country. Several years ago, he was champion of the old UWF, a federation based in Oklahoma. For Bigelow, it meant the opportunity to finally meet the promise he has held for so many years. He has always been on the brink of greatness. This was his chance to get there.

So, when Williams won the match, it was no mere loss for Bigelow. It was another career setback. Numerous times during the match, Bigelow was on the verge of victory. He couldn't get over the top. It was a mountain he couldn't climb.

Because of this, one would have expected Bigelow to react angrily after the match. I expected him to attack Williams, or at least allege that Williams had cheated to win the match. That didn't happen.

"I've got to give Steve credit," Bigelow said, stunning the group of reporters that surrounded him in the dressing room of the Manatee Civic Center. "It was a great, great match. In my six years in this sport, I've never had anyone lift me up with as much ease as

(Continued on page 56)

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THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

AT THOSE TIMES when I wanted something I could not yet have, my grandmother always said, "Have patience, what's your hurry?" It was meant as a guiding principle, an attitude to deflect life's inevitable disappointments. But I was born into a generation built on instant gratification; we didn't have time to be patient.

As a journalist, I have displayed admirable patience. I have regularly reported injustice—and waited for justice to be served. And waited. And waited. And waited.

Two months ago, finally, I was rewarded. During WCW's Clash of Champions XV, Rick Morton—*Richard* Morton, as he is now called—announced his membership into The York Foundation, joining Terrence Taylor and Mr. Hughes as full-time members of Alexandra York's sophisticated geek troupe. No sooner did the words tumble from his mouth than out limped Robert Gibson (inactive since September with a bum knee).

"How can you do this to me?" dud B asked dud A. "After all we've been through, how can you turn your back and take up with these guys?"

It was really pathetic and ex-



When The Rock 'n' Roll Express split up and began feuding, no one was more satisfied than Eddie Ellner, though he doesn't think their feud deserves national exposure.

tremely satisfying. But the moment was made even better by what followed. After calming down Taylor and Hughes, who wanted to attack Gibson right then, Morton turned to his old partner and said, "I've waited 10 years to do this," and smacked a right across Gibson's face. He followed with a piledriver for good measure be-

fore Dustin Rhodes came to the rescue.

Ten years, Rick—excuse me—Richard? I've been waiting a lifetime! While the thought of the Rock 'n' Trolls engaged in a feud warms my heart, I hate the idea that their internal pillow fight will give them national exposure. And

(Continued on page 58)

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A—ON—ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Liz Hunter is not among those who believe Ric Flair's skills have slipped dramatically. She thinks Flair remains near the top of his game.

REAL MEN ON the brain. The Yukon Lumberjacks. Bruiser and Crusher. The Legion of Doom. Ric Flair.

Ric Flair?

You may wonder how I can include Flair in the category of "real men." Flair the coward, the man who for years has survived with mirrors and magician's tricks, with lies and deception, to cling to his belt.

"When you examine WCW, the impulse is to say that Flair's title reign was ruled by committee," says one wrestling analyst. "With-

out The Four Horsemen, Flair would have been wrestling semifinal matches years ago. In the scope of history, Flair's administration may diminish as much as Ronald Reagan's has."

"A thorough examination of the Ric Flair years reveals a lot of holes," says another critic.

It's funny how no one wants to publicly condemn Flair, at least while he still holds the belt. Well, that's not entirely true. My colleague Eddie Ellner doesn't mince words when asked to sum up Flair's accomplishments.

"To be the man, you have to be a man, and Flair no longer fills that prerequisite. His whole image is on the verge of collapse. The Reagan analogy is very appropriate. If Flair continues at this pace, he will be remembered as a coward and a thief, and not as the true champion he once was."

Magazine and newspaper headlines also reveal an editorial lack of confidence in Flair's ability to remain champion. A sampling ("Why Ric Flair Might Never Recover From This Super Brawl," "The Final Days Of Ric Flair," "Why Flair Should Quit Now") place Flair in the sad category usually reserved for punchdrunk boxers and battle-weary soldiers. Hardly the company he's used to keeping.

Seven times a world champion, Flair is fast becoming the most maligned titleholder in wrestling history. I say news of his imminent demise is greatly exaggerated. I say Flair remains near the top of his game, and a simple examination of the facts will prove it.

News reports from Flair's Super Brawl '91 rematch against Tatsumi Fujinami are fascinating to read. Each one describes Fujinami's technical brilliance with an awe bordering on reverence, as if The Lord Himself was facing Flair that night.

"Realizing that trying to match the nonpareil Fujinami by wrestling him simply would not

(Continued on page 60)

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The NWA's greatest wrestlers converge in Washington D.C., for a Congress of Capital Combat! Sting vs. Robocop make a special appearance to watch six-time champ Ric Flair & Lex Luger in a steel cage for the Championship. Also: The Steiners vs. Doom; Fly'n Brian & Z-Man vs. Midnight Express, Rock 'n Roll's etc.

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A brutal night of devilish destruction! Ric Flair wants to permanently settle the score against Terry Funk. Together with Flair's powerhouse partner, Sting, the two great heavyweight pros treat Funk & The Great Muta to some monstrous portions of punishment! Also: Lex Luger, Thr Road Warriors, The Samoan Swat Team, The Skyscrapers, The Freebirds and many more!

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



RAY CANDY

This hulking 297-pounder has competed under both his own name and under the name of Kareem Muhammad during his outstanding 17-year career. Today, however, Candy seems to have turned sweet again. He's currently

competing in Georgia—and he's taking on men the fans hate, such as Big Bully Busick. "I love how the fans are in my corner again," enthused Candy. "I'll never turn my back on them again."



ROCHESTER ROADBLOCK

The huge 375-pound powerhouse is a long way from Rochester, New York, these days. The man famous for bringing an actual roadblock to the ring is currently competing for SWS in Japan.

"Not only am I wrestling in Japan, but I'm in school here," said the popular Roadblock. "I'm learning the Japanese style of wrestling, and I'm studying the martial arts, too. I was great before, but soon I'll be just about perfect!"



UNCLE ELMER

The uncle of Hillbilly Jim, Cousin Luke, and Cousin Junior is now retired from the sport and living in Mississippi. The affable 400-pounder has sold cars and jewelry in recent years, while still keeping track of the sport.

"I like sittin' in the audience when rasslin' comes to town and just being a fan," said Elmer, who added that he has no plans to return to the sport. "I just love being with the nice folks and not hurtin' nobody."



BRONCO LUBICH

Long famous for his tenure as a referee in World Class and the USWA, this former wrestler is now retired from the mat scene.

"I'm just sitting back, smoking cigars, and not doing too much," laughed Lubich. Unbeknownst to many fans, Lubich was once a rule-breaking manager during his career, which spanned almost 40 years. "I don't like to talk about those days much," he said regretfully. "I'd rather be remembered as a good, honest referee."

INSIDE WRESTLING

183

CAPSULE PROFILE

JAKE "THE SNAKE" Roberts is a crafty and wily veteran who has long been one of the most popular competitors in the WWF ("Not aiming to win any popularity contests, though") ... Known primarily for two things: the snake he carries into the ring, and his devastating DDT finishing maneuver ("Instruments of fear") ... Made his professional debut in Louisiana in 1975 ... In late-1979 and early-1980, suffered two broken arms, but struggled back to win the Louisiana title ("A sure sign of toughness") ... As a last-minute substitute for Paul Orndorff, defeated The Masked Grappler to win the North American title ... In 1982, traveled to Florida and became a member of Kevin Sullivan's stable ("He is one strange individual, Sullivan is") ... Received several matches against NWA (now WCW) World champion Ric Flair ... Left Sullivan's camp for the Mid-Atlantic area, where Paul Jones became his manager ... Most hated opponent then was Rick Steamboat ("Swatted him like a dragonfly") ... Moved to Georgia in late-1983 and joined Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom ... Won the National title from Ronnie Garvin ... Claiming there was a conspiracy against the Legion, he left Georgia for World Class ... Held the World Class six-man title with Chris Adams and Gino Hernan-

JAKE ROBERTS

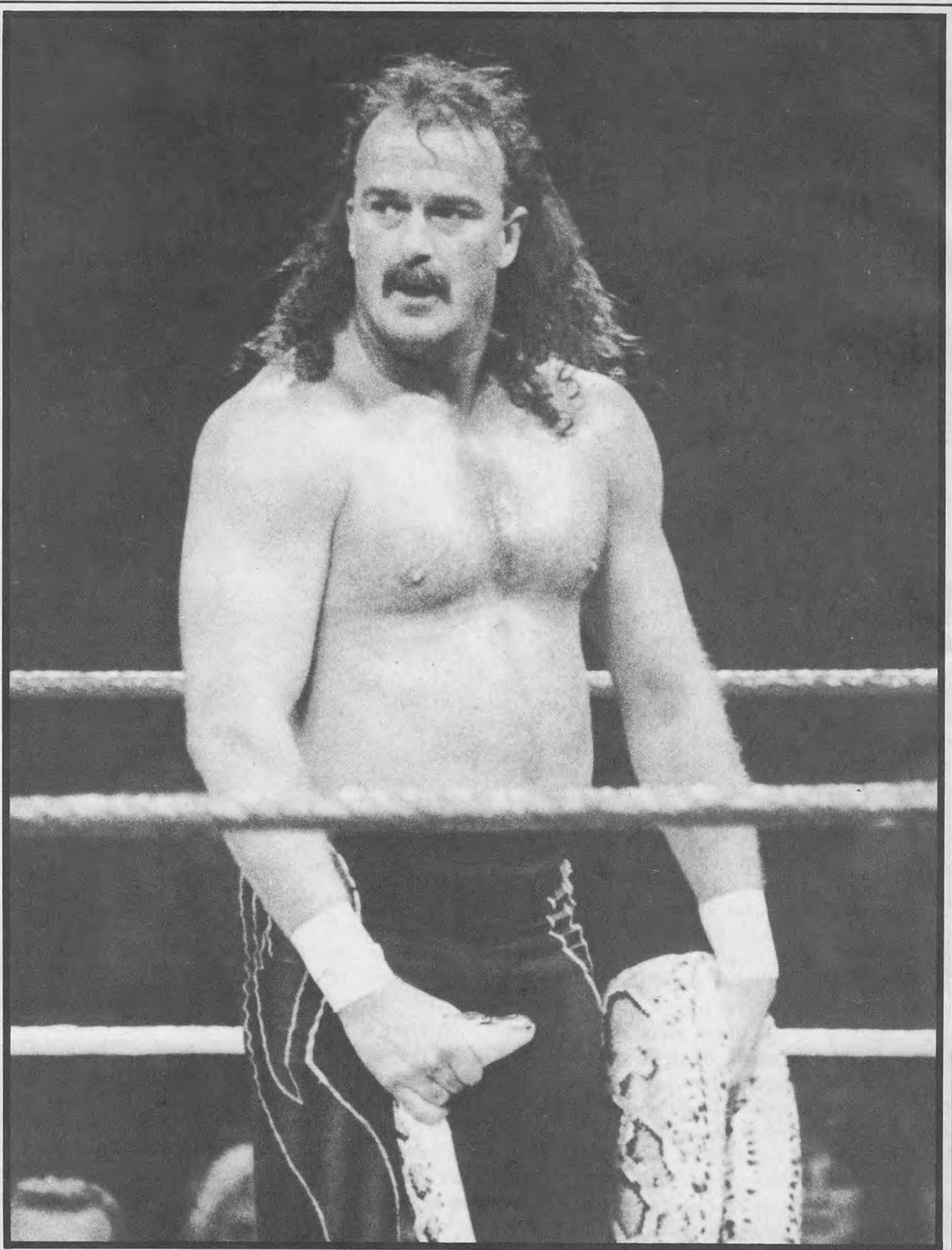


Jake "The Snake" Roberts levels Rick Martel. The two biggest weapons in Roberts' arsenal are his DDT and his snake, Lucifer.

dez ... Next competed in the Mid-South area, where he feuded with Ted DiBiase ("The million-dollar moron") ... Won the North American title from Dick Slater on February 14, 1986, but lost it a week later ... Soon after, entered the WWF, where he began bringing his snake Damian into the ring and draping it over his opponents ("Nasty, but very effective") ... Resumed his long-forgotten feud with Rick Steamboat ... Received several shots at Hulk Hogan's WWF World title ... Began feuding with The Honky Tonk Man and won the fans' cheers ... In 1988, entered into an epic feud with Rick Rude after Rude tried to kiss his wife, Cheryl, on national television

("Rude thinks he's God's gift to women, but he isn't fooling anyone") ... Cheryl was at his side for many of those bouts ... With Rude out of the way, Roberts began warring with old nemesis Ted DiBiase in a feud that centered around Ted's "million-dollar belt" ... Currently, "The Snake" is locked in a bitter struggle with Earthquake ... In March 1991, in one of the most shocking incidents in WWF history, Earthquake crushed the snake Damian ("It was a crime, pure and simple!") ... Roberts replaced Damian with another snake, Lucifer, and quickly resumed the fight with the Canadian behemoth ("There'll be no rest for the 'Quake until Damian is avenged!")

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



JAKE ROBERTS

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In which sport did Ken Patera win an Olympic medal?

- 1) Weightlifting 3) Gymnastics
- 2) Wrestling 4) Boxing

Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

- 1) Fred Blassie 3) Jimmy Hart
- 2) Arnold Skaaland 4) Elizabeth

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

- 1) Jake Roberts 3) King Kong Bundy
- 2) Hawk 4) Buzz Sawyer

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

- 1) Kansas City Chiefs 3) Cincinnati Bengals
- 2) Los Angeles Rams 4) Atlanta Falcons

Gorilla Monsoon was originally billed as being from:

- 1) Manchuria 3) New Jersey
- 2) Croatia 4) Montreal

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NEWS FROM THE

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PORLAND, ME

By Adam Lamontagne



SGT. SLAUGHTER

vs.

HACKSAW DUGGAN



In this violent "boot camp match," both combatants were allowed to use foreign objects, and a pinfall could occur anywhere in the building. Duggan was in control at the start of the bout, hitting Slaughter with fists and clotheslines. Desperately, Slaughter used his canteen, helmet, and belt to unbalance Duggan's attack. Gen. Adnan threw Slaughter a chair, but Duggan intercepted it and used it to level Slaughter. Adnan then threw powder in Duggan's eyes, and Slaughter got the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Typhoon pinned The Barbarian . . . Irwin R. Shyster pinned Jimmy Snuka . . . Animal pinned Jerry Sags . . . Rick Steamboat pinned Haku . . . Power & Glory defeated The Bushwhackers . . . Roddy Piper won a battle royal.

VANCOUVER, BC

By Justin McCartney



KERRY VON ERICH

vs.

WARLORD



The match began with a test of strength, but neither man could gain an advantage. Von Erich tried to use speed to confuse his huge opponent, but Warlord immobilized the "Texas Tornado" with a bearhug. After several minutes, Kerry broke out of the hold and blasted Warlord with a "tornado punch," but he was too groggy to go for the pin. When Von Erich applied a sleeper, both wrestlers fell out of the ring and began brawling on the arena floor, resulting in a double-countout.

OTHER BOUTS: Greg Valentine beat Crush . . . Big Bossman pinned The Mountie . . . Bret Hart defeated The Barbarian . . . Power & Glory beat The Bushwhackers . . . Animal pinned Jerry Sags . . . Irwin R. Shyster beat Jimmy Snuka . . . The Ultimate Warrior beat The Undertaker by disqualification.

HOUSTON, TX

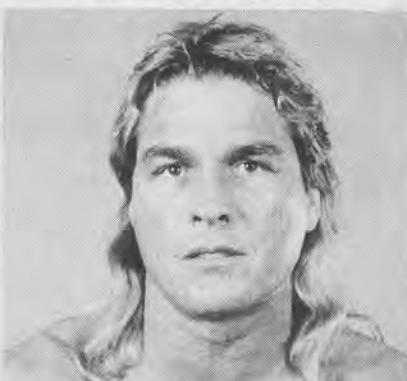
By Charlie Butera



BOBBY EATON

vs.

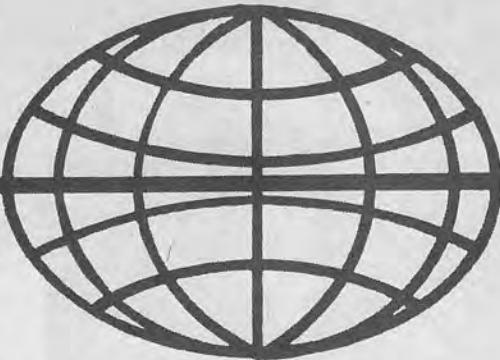
TERRENCE TAYLOR



After several minutes of intense action, Taylor threw Eaton out of the ring. While Taylor distracted referee Pee Wee Anderson, Mr. Hughes pummelled Eaton and rolled him back in the ring. After Taylor pinned Eaton illegally, Dustin Rhodes came down and told referee Anderson what had happened. Taylor took a swing at Rhodes, but Dustin nailed him first. Eaton then rolled up Taylor for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Steve Austin pinned Sam Houston . . . Brian Pillman defeated Arn Anderson . . . The Young Pistols beat The Freebirds . . . U.S. champion Lex Luger fought Nikita Koloff to a no-contest . . . El Gigante beat WCW World champion Ric Flair by disqualification . . . Sting pinned Barry Windham.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



ST. LOUIS, MO By Jerry Newmark



RON SIMMONS
VS.
ONE MAN GANG



Though he was outweighed by nearly 200 pounds, Simmons stood up to OMG and actually had the advantage for a good part of this match. His power-packed kicks and punches kept Gang off-balance and looking to his manager, Kevin Sullivan, for assistance. As expected, Sullivan did become involved in the match. His interference did not go unpunished, however; Gang was disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Ron Powers beat The Assassin ... El Gigante & Yellow Dog defeated Barry Windham & WCW World champion Ric Flair ... Scott Steiner won a battle royal ... Diamond Studd beat Sam Houston ... Dustin Rhodes pinned Black Bart ... Dan Spivey defeated Big Josh ... Bobby Eaton beat Arn Anderson ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Hiroshi Hase & Masa Chono.

LOUISVILLE, KY By Candy Maguire



TONY ANTHONY
VS.
TOM PRICHARD



This was a battle between two men who were once allies, but now find themselves on opposite ends of the Tennessee-Texas feud that is burning up the USWA. From the very start, this was more a brawl than a wrestling match: There was more fighting outside the ring than inside, resulting in the referee finally ordering a double-disqualification. **OTHER BOUTS:** Dan Davis drew with Judge Dread ... Bill Dundee beat Chris Candido ... USWA tag team champions Robert Fuller & Jeff Jarrett beat Master Blaster & Tex Salinger ... Eddie & Doug Gilbert beat Eric Embry & Samu by disqualification ... USWA champion Jerry Lawler beat The Texas Ranger ... Jeff Jarrett beat USWA Southern champion Eric Embry by disqualification.

BROOKLYN, NY By Burton Crane



THE HONKY TONK MAN
VS.
RICK RUDE



When these men competed in the WWF, they both heard more booring than cheering, but this Brooklyn crowd was clearly behind Rude. It was the "Ravishing One's" speed and finesse against Honky's dirty tricks. The intensity increased dramatically when they took their battle out of the ring. At that point, neither man seemed to care about winning, as they were both counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: ICW champion Tony Atlas pinned Dusty Wolfe ... T.D. Madison pinned Equalizer Zap ... The Tasmaniac defeated Ray Odyssey ... Joe Savoldi defeated Samson of The Billion-Dollar Babies ... Scott Putski pinned Psycho ... Mondo Kleen pinned Equalizer Zap ... Ivan Putski pinned Black Knight II ... Curly Moe defeated Psycho ... Little Louie defeated Tiger Jackson.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

PALMETTO, FL: Palm trees, sand dunes, condominiums, old people, bad hospitals, early-bird specials; I feel like a man who's arrived before his time. The UWF held its Beach Brawl card here and this was an in-and-out deal for me. Flew in for the card, flew out right afterward. Didn't want anybody to get the wrong idea, like maybe I'm a resident of this place. But this card had to get the natives' adrenaline rushing. The UWF really knows how



IVAN KOLOFF VS. BOB BACKLUND

to do it right and its roster of wrestlers is among the best in the world. A couple of former WWF World champions, Bob Backlund and Ivan Koloff, squared off in one match that had me thinking back 13 years. It didn't last very long—just 2:25—but Backlund's beautiful pinfall victory really brought back memories. Even Capt. Lou Albano was here. The real reason for coming, though, was Steve Williams' match against Bam Bam Bigelow for the new UWF TV title. Now here's a match that should be able to pack any arena in the world, because these are two of the toughest men you'll ever find. As expected, it

was an absolute war. First Williams bled, then Bigelow bled. Bigelow threw everything at Williams, but good ol' "Dr. Death" responded bravely. Nothing stops this man. I think it finally frustrated Bigelow, because he just didn't know what it would take to keep Doc down. Well, nobody has the answer to that problem. Williams finally won the match and afterward proclaimed, "This is my greatest moment in the U.S. since I won the UWF title." Williams was referring to the old UWF, but it's clear that Williams and the letters U-W-F get along very well. This was a classic match, and Williams is a classic champion. I predict he'll have the belt for a long time.

BALTIMORE, MD: There are times when WCW presents the very best in wrestling. Then there was tonight, when a ridiculous arm-wrestling match between Missy Hyatt and Paul E. Dangerously spoiled the show. You know, I think this all goes back to 1973, when Billie Jean King had that tennis match in Houston against Bobby Riggs. The whole "battle of the sexes" thing. That was ridiculous and every other battle-of-the-sexes match since then has been ridiculous. Unfortunately, WCW seems to have a monopoly on this sort of thing. Remember the Jim Cornette-Baby Doll matches of 1986? Yeah, I do, too, and I'm still trying to forget them. Bad memories die hard. Anyway, Hyatt won this match by spraying hairspray in Paul E.'s face. It was a ridiculous finish to a ridiculous match, and while the fans might have cheered Missy, it should be pointed out that Missy, again, cheated to get her way. She always does. Speaking of Missy, there's something different about her and I just can't place it. She seems . . . smaller?

BROOKLYN, NY: Caught a matinee of *Jungle Fever*—Craig Peters told me I might enjoy it, and he was wrong—then caught IWCCW's card at Our Lady of Grace School. Two comments. First of all, no federation should have more than three letters in its abbreviation. I thought the WWF took care of that years ago when it changed from WWWF. Second of all, this reporter feels a little uncomfortable around nuns and crucifixes, especially

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



CURLY MOE

when there's a wrestling ring involved. This mix just doesn't work. As for IWCCW's mix, I'm just not so sure. Samu, Tony Atlas, Tito Santana, Scott Putski, Ivan Putski, The Honky Tonk Man, Rick Rude. This is an interesting mix of wrestlers, but they just might be like oil and water. Rude-Honky Tonk doesn't interest me anymore. Atlas is still trying to work his way to the top, and while he has the strength to get there, he might not have the ability. The most unusual match pitted Curly Moe against Psycho. It should have been called Psycho vs. Psycho II. Curly Moe is out of his mind. He thinks he's the second coming of The Three Stooges, all in one, and Psycho is, of course, psycho. The question is whether Our Lady of Grace School will ever recover from this evening. Ol' OLGS had jungle fever for a night.

NEW YORK, NY: A packed Madison Square Garden can't help but bring a smile to the face of a jaded wrestling reporter. This place is the mecca, and it should be filled every time there's a wrestling match going on, just like it used to be. Tonight, Hulk Hogan defeated Sgt. Slaughter in another one of their "Desert Storm" matches and the noise in here was just deafening. Word has since come down that Hogan got injured in one of these

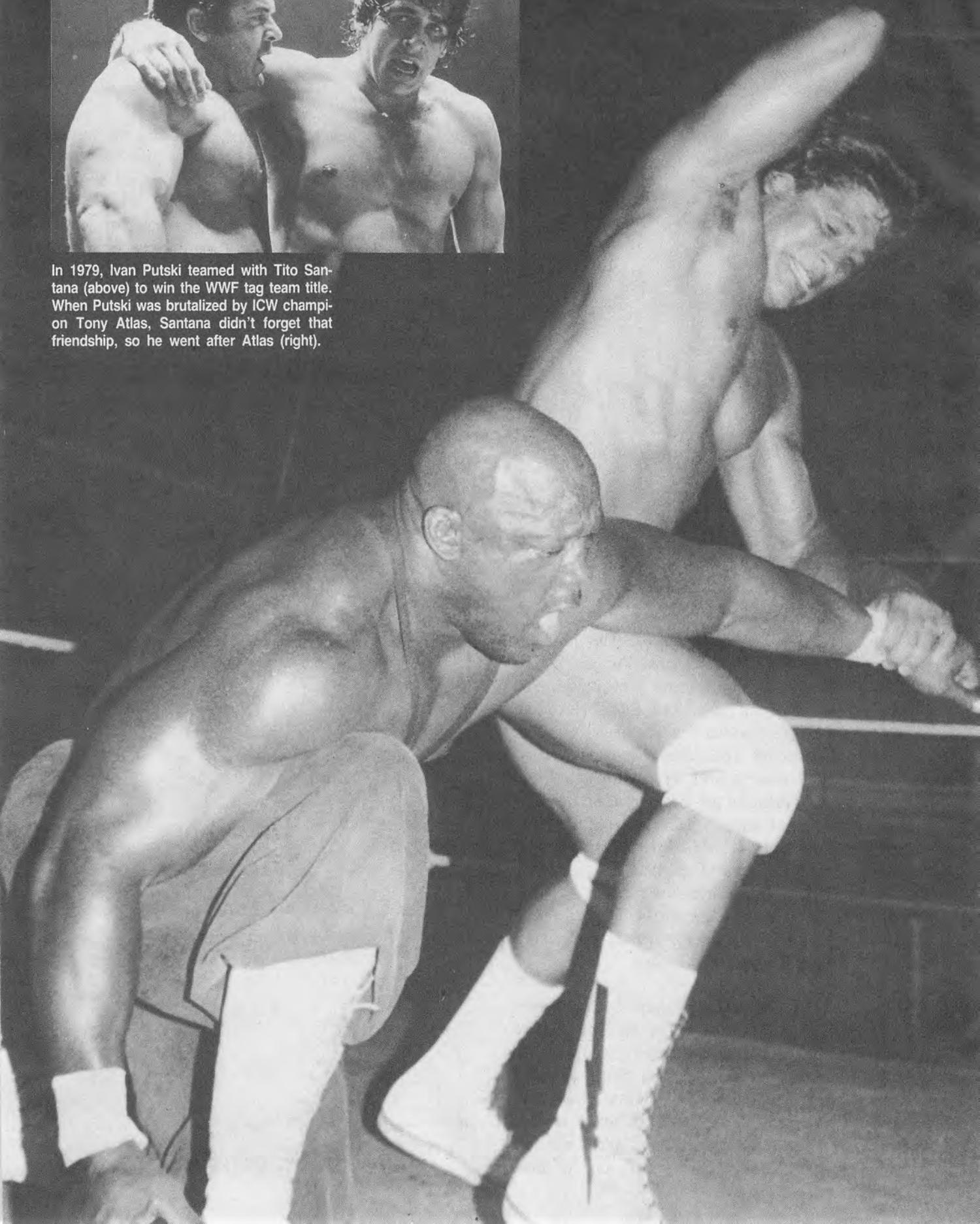
matches and it doesn't surprise me, considering the intensity. Hogan is going all out for personal pride and the pride of his country and I'm afraid—no, I'm not afraid, I'm happy—that Slaughter is overmatched. The Sarge really has to get back to business; he's totally distracted by all of this Iraq nonsense. Lou Thesz once told me that when a man steps into the ring, he can have only one thing on his mind: the man he's wrestling. That's not the case with Slaughter, even on this night at the Garden, when it was just too loud to hear yourself think. □



HULK HOGAN VS. SGT. SLAUGHTER



In 1979, Ivan Putski teamed with Tito Santana (above) to win the WWF tag team title. When Putski was brutalized by ICW champion Tony Atlas, Santana didn't forget that friendship, so he went after Atlas (right).



TITO SANTANA'S VIOLENT VENDETTA AGAINST TONY ATLAS

Though he competes in the WWF, Tito Santana doesn't fail to keep tabs on his friends in other federations. So when he saw how ICW champion Tony Atlas was treating his old tag team partner, Ivan Putski, the Mexican star ignored federation loyalties and went to war with Atlas. Poor Atlas!

By Andy Rodriguez



Atlas doesn't think Santana had any right to come to IWCCW and challenge him, and he's determined to make Santana pay for his "mistake."

TIITO SANTANA PUTS a high price on loyalty.

He is loyal to his federation. Santana has competed in the WWF since the early-1980s, the longest continuous service to that organization displayed by any wrestler.

More importantly, he is loyal to his friends. He hasn't forgotten any of his partners of the past. Like Ivan Putski.

In 1979, he teamed with "Polish Power" to capture the WWF tag team title. They held those belts for only six months, but they forged a strong bond of friendship.

"Tito was like a little brother to me," Putski recalled fondly. "We trained together, ate together, and spent hours talking strategy. Maybe we didn't have the title too long, but we were honorable champions. We couldn't be anything else."

In the hurly-burly world of pro wrestling, it's easy for even the closest friends to drift apart. After losing the belts, both men got caught up in other, separate endeavors. As the years past, they saw less and less of each other, their only contact being Christmas cards and chance meetings in airport terminals.



Santana's stomps on Atlas (left) are strengthened by his eagerness to gain revenge for Putski. Atlas is just as eager to resist the threat (above).



Atlas is putting the squeeze on Tito (left), but he's having a hard time getting rid of him (above). Santana has lost whatever respect he had for the former "Mr. U.S.A."

Until last May.

Santana was at home relaxing, enjoying a rare few days off, when the phone rang. On the other end of the line was a familiar voice, a superfan who keeps Santana abreast of all the latest goings-on in the sport.

"Tito? You're not gonna believe this, but I think Ivan Putski needs your help. Listen, tonight he was wrestling Tony Atlas ... Yeah, that Tony Atlas. Atlas and this Tony

Rumble character ... Rumble ... I don't know, some guy from Boston. Anyway, what they did is hang Ivan over the ropes ... Yeah, it was disgusting all right ... I'm in Brooklyn, New York ... Tito? Tito, you there?"

Santana could not stand to hear anymore. He knew all he needed to know. His old friend was in trouble and he had to help him. The decision to drive out to Brooklyn for the next night's IWCCW card

was an easy one.

IWCCW's fan favorites were shocked but pleasantly surprised when Santana showed up in the locker room in Brooklyn. But the most surprised person of all was Putski.

"He said he was there to help me out," Putski recalled. "That made me feel pretty good. I told him, 'Look, me and my boy Scott can take care of Atlas and any of

(Continued on page 62)

You're Invited



*To The Silver Anniversary Celebration
Of Wrestling's Most Respected Magazine*

The Wrestler

The October 1991 edition of The Wrestler marks the 25th anniversary of the magazine that has thrilled, entertained, and informed mat fans longer than any wrestling publication in existence!

This important milestone will be marked by a very special color-packed issue of The Wrestler.

Join us as we retrace the highlights of the last quarter century of wrestling action. Let us dazzle you with the some of the greatest photographs, carefully selected from the richest supply of wrestling pictures in the world. Learn the results of our poll of the 40 surviving men and women who have ever served on the editorial board of The Wrestler as we rate the top 25 wrestlers of the past 25 years.

The Silver Anniversary edition of The Wrestler is a magazine event collectors won't want to miss! This very special issue, on sale August 13, is certain to be a newsstand sellout—be sure to pick up your copy early!

THE 25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF

The Wrestler

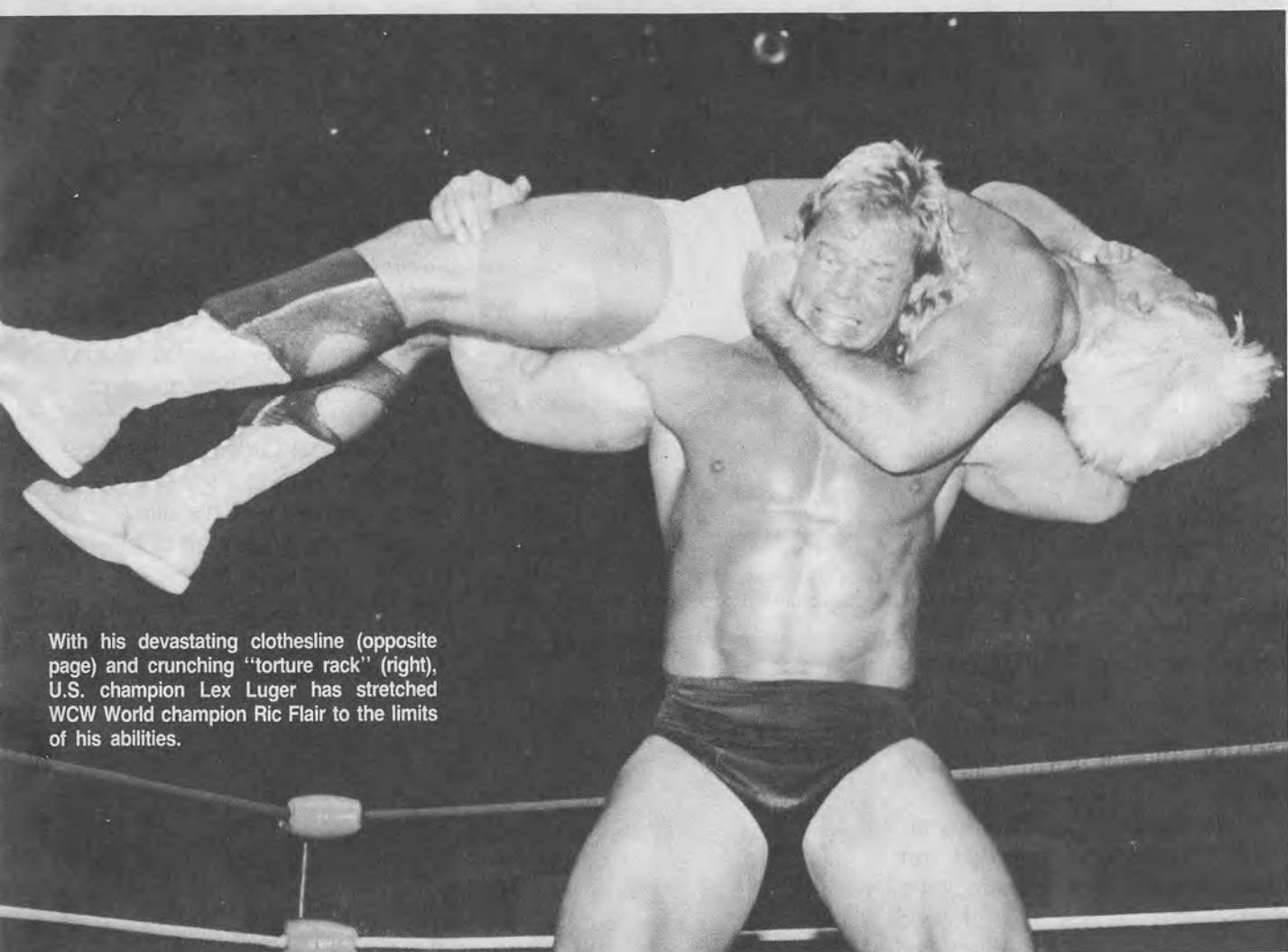
ON SALE August 13th!

IS LEX LUGER AS GOOD AS HE CAN BE?

There were great achievements and devastating setbacks. There were twists and turns nobody could have expected. And after all of this, Lex Luger has arrived at the top. The education of a champion is complete



By Dave Rosenbaum



With his devastating clothesline (opposite page) and crunching "torture rack" (right), U.S. champion Lex Luger has stretched WCW World champion Ric Flair to the limits of his abilities.

THE MOST TELLING scene was in the rulebreakers' dressing room during Lex Luger's match against The Great Muta on the June 12 Clash of the Champions XV card in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Ric Flair sat perched in front of a large color monitor, his interest perked because this match meant so much to him. The winner of the Luger-Muta match would get a shot at Flair's WCW World championship, and Flair was very concerned with the outcome.

In the first minute of the match, Muta blasted Luger with a series of karate thrusts. Flair rose from his chair, pumped his fists in the air, and yelled out, "Yeah!"

But Muta's martial arts tactics had little effect on Luger, and within another minute it was clear that Luger was in the midst of a special night, the kind of night that comes rarely even to very special athletes. That didn't make Flair happy. He sat in silence and watched.

There was a brief moment when Muta had Luger caught in the corner and it appeared he might be able to regain control. That brought a brief smile to Flair's face, but he knew how this match would end.

Luger, the man Flair wanted to lose, would defeat Muta, the man Flair wanted to win. It took only 3:48 for Luger to catch Muta with

a powerslam and cover him for the pin. Luger was stunned by the quickness of his victory. Flair picked up a chair and threw it against the wall.

"Damn!" he exclaimed.

Later, Flair would put on his brave face, proclaiming that he wanted Luger because he had beaten Luger so many times. But the dressing room scene said it all, and Flair somehow knew that Luger's momentum would carry him through their match on July 14 in Baltimore.

It took Luger six years to reach this point. First there was his rookie year in the Florida area, then his ill-fated decision to join The Four Horsemen, then a vic-



As U.S. champion, Luger successfully turned back challenges from Sid Vicious (above) and Nikita Koloff (below). Luger says that kind of championship experience is invaluable.

tory for the U.S. title and a devastating loss. Then there were the matches against Flair, matches in which Luger came so close to winning the World title, but always fell short.

And now, finally, Luger has arrived. His game has matured and expanded. He has a champion's mind. Gone are the days of poor decisions and stupid mistakes. Lex Luger is now at the top of his game. He is as good as he can be, and that's a lot better than most.

"I think a lot of people who judged Lex by that match in Baltimore [in 1988 when he bled and the referee had to stop the match]. They just didn't realize that Lex was still so young," Sting said. "Then a few months later at Starrcade when his knee gave in and he got pinned by Flair, well, that was a total fluke and everybody knew it.

"The unfair part about it," Sting continued, "was that everybody labeled Lex a choke artist because of those matches, when the truth was that at his young age, he did better than anybody

else could have, including me. It was like a rookie batting against Roger Clemens, but the rookie got a few singles, even if he didn't make it home. Lex didn't fold up and die from those experiences. He learned from them, and that's the mark of a true champion."

Back in 1988, Luger was still a pure brawler. He had not yet learned about pace, strategy, and picking away at an opponent's weaknesses.

Flair, of course, is a master of pace. He knows how to extend his stamina over the course of a long match. And in the Starrcade match against Luger, he constantly worked on Luger's weak knee. It eventually saved his title.

Luger now knows all of the finer points of the game. He learned the hard way, but he learned





nonetheless.

"When I lost that Starrcade match to Flair when my knee gave out, I thought it was the end of the world," Luger said. "Flair kept on saying how he would never give me another title match, and deep inside I knew he was right. I didn't deserve one. I had gone as far as I could go with the skills I had. In my mind, I really was the 'Total Package.' There was nothing I could add. But I was wrong and every match since then has been a learning experience."

He made the mistake of turning against his good friend Sting, a mistake he now regrets. When Sting reembraced Luger, he learned another lesson about life.

"I learned there are some people you can depend on, and some people who will just take you for everything you've got," Luger said. "That was important, because it gave me peace of mind. It enabled me to concentrate on my career and get on

Competing night after night against opponents like WCW World tag team champion Rick Steiner (above) and Koloff (below) has made Luger an outstanding competitor.



one path. Before that, I had been zig-zagging all over the place."

On the WCW's Super Brawl '91 card in St. Petersburg, Florida, Luger again learned about maturity. It happened during Luger and Sting's match against Rick and Scott Steiner, when Nikita Koloff tried to savage Luger with a chain.

Sting pushed Luger aside and took the full brunt of the chain. It cost Luger and Sting the match, but Sting didn't care: He just wanted to save his friend.

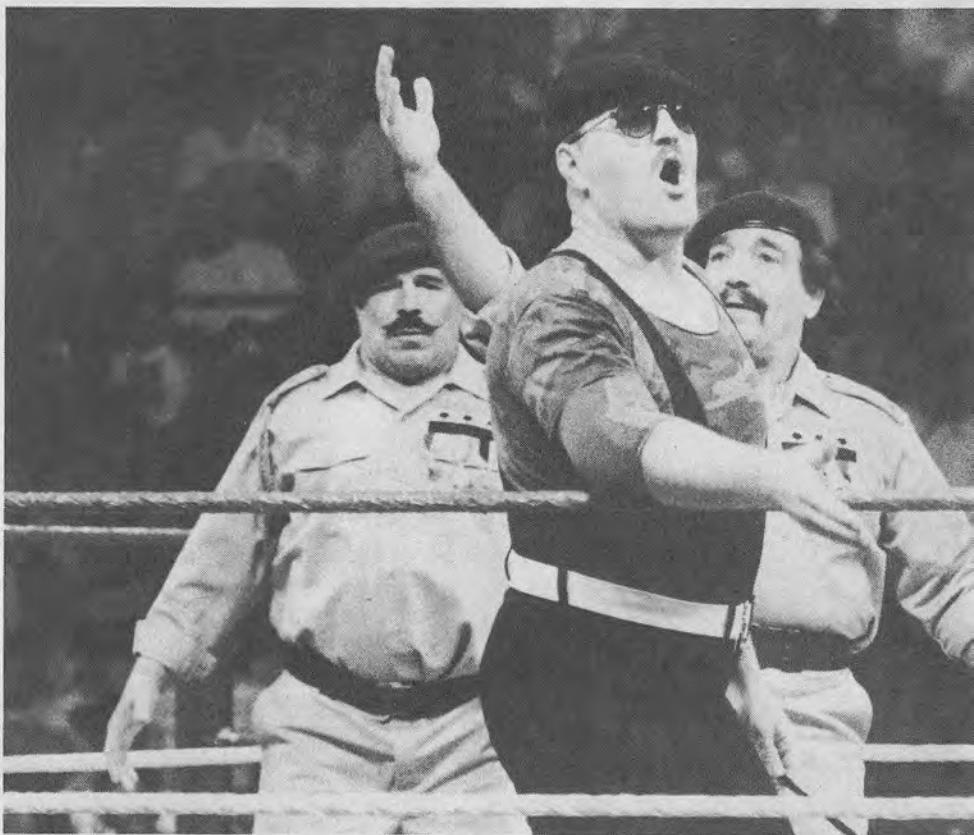
"Sting owed nothing to me, and look what he did," Luger said.

But it was just another step in the education of a champion. Luger has built upon his strengths, learned from his mistakes, and recovered from his setbacks. His setbacks, like his achievements, were all steps toward his ultimate, most glorious goal.

Luger has arrived! And he couldn't be better! Nobody else is. □

S U M M E R

Exclusive Preview



When Sgt. Slaughter, Col. Mustafa, and Gen. Adnan (above) oppose Hulk Hogan (below) and Ultimate Warrior (right), Sid Justice (top left) will be the referee.



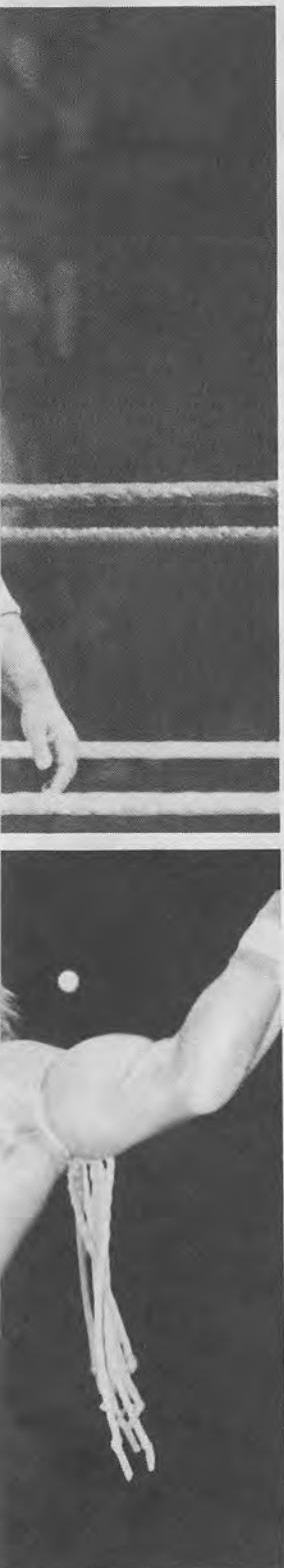
IT'S HARD TO believe that SummerSlam is only four years old. The WWF's annual summer party has become one of the most anticipated events on the wrestling calendar, and rightfully so.

It was at SummerSlam that Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage, using a little help from Elizabeth's little bathing suit, defeated Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase. It was at SummerSlam that The Ultimate Warrior regained the Intercontinental title from Rick Rude, and where Hogan made a glorious return from a career-threatening injury to defeat Earthquake in shattering fashion.

Each SummerSlam has been an event to remember, and this year's renewal, scheduled for August 26 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, figures to be no different.

It's being billed as "A Match Made In Heaven, A Match Made In Hell," a reference to Randy Savage and Elizabeth's wedding (heaven) and the tag team match pitting Hogan and the Warrior against Sgt. Slaughter, Gen. Adnan,

& Analysis



At SummerSlam, "Macho Man" Randy Savage and Elizabeth are finally going to tie the knot.

A Match Made in Heaven! A Match Made in Hell! Bossman vs. The Mountie! The Legion of Doom vs. The Nasty Boys! Curt Hennig vs. Bret Hart! And Virgil vs. Ted DiBiase! The WWF's SummerSlam '91 figures to be the greatest ever!

and Col. Mustafa (hell). But SummerSlam '91 has so much more to offer.

In an unusual jailhouse match, Big Bossman will battle The Mountie. The Legion of Doom will try to win the World tag team title from the degenerate Nasty Boys. "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig will put his Intercontinental title on the line against Bret Hart. And Ted DiBiase will defend his "million-dollar belt" against his former bodyguard, Virgil.

It figures to be an evening to remember, and the staff of *Inside Wrestling* will be there to bring you all of the action in words and pictures.

But before the big day, there's the anticipation, the predictions, the interviews, and the hype. And in this special Preview and Analysis, we'll cut through it all to give you the real dope on SummerSlam's biggest matches . . . and biggest matchup!

It's the only real guide to SummerSlam '91, your insiders' view of what to expect at the most awesome summer party ever!

TED DiBIASE VS. VIRGIL

Is there no end to this feud? Virgil humiliated DiBiase at WrestleMania VII, stripping him of his pride. Now DiBiase's "million-dollar belt" will be on the line, and it would be the final humiliation if Virgil, his ex-servant, stripped him of that, too.

There was a time when DiBiase was considered one of the best all-around wrestlers in the world. This may still be true. But now DiBiase chooses to be a primitive brawler.

But rulebreaking hasn't worked against the powerful Virgil. Neither has taunting. Word close to DiBiase's training camp says that Ted is working hard on basic maneuvers. We suspect that DiBiase might revert to his old tactics against Virgil. And there's no reason to believe that DiBiase can't outwrestle Virgil.

In many cases, raw strength can overcome scientific ability. Look at Hulk Hogan, who has become the most popular wrestler in the world by simply outbrawling his opponents. But Virgil is no Hogan. He can't rely on raw power to overcome a smarter, more skilled wrestler.

DiBiase doesn't have much left. What he does have is his "million-dollar belt." It is something he takes great pride in and, indeed, it is a beautiful specimen. DiBiase could not handle losing his belt to Virgil.

Look for DiBiase to try and make the match last as long as possible. He will wear down Virgil, who will become confused by DiBiase's "new" tactics. Off-balance and tired, Virgil will fall prey to DiBiase in a little more than 10 minutes.

It won't make the fans at Madison Square Garden happy, but DiBiase has never been concerned about the fans. He has failed to buy his way to the top. Now he will wrestle his way out of despair.



Ted DiBiase will have to find a way to counteract Virgil's power-packed right hand (above). Virgil's mind games include dressing as "Virgilina" (below).





Bret Hart and Intercontinental champion "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig are two stellar scientific competitors, but it's their brawling ability that could make the difference in their bout.

CURT HENNIG VS. BRET HART

Science vs. science. Stamina vs. stamina. Determination vs. determination. Mind vs. mind. The match between Intercontinental champion "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig and Bret Hart will have everything the old-fashioned wrestling fan could ever desire.

But it won't have a title change. Hennig is one of the finest scientific wrestlers the sport has ever seen. The former AWA champion is also a capable brawler (and a devious rulebreaker). Certainly, he

has been helped in this department by a recent managerial change from Bobby Heenan to John Tolos. Tolos has continued to teach Hennig the sleazier aspects of the sport. Hennig has apparently learned his lessons well, if recent victories over Davey Boy Smith are any indication.

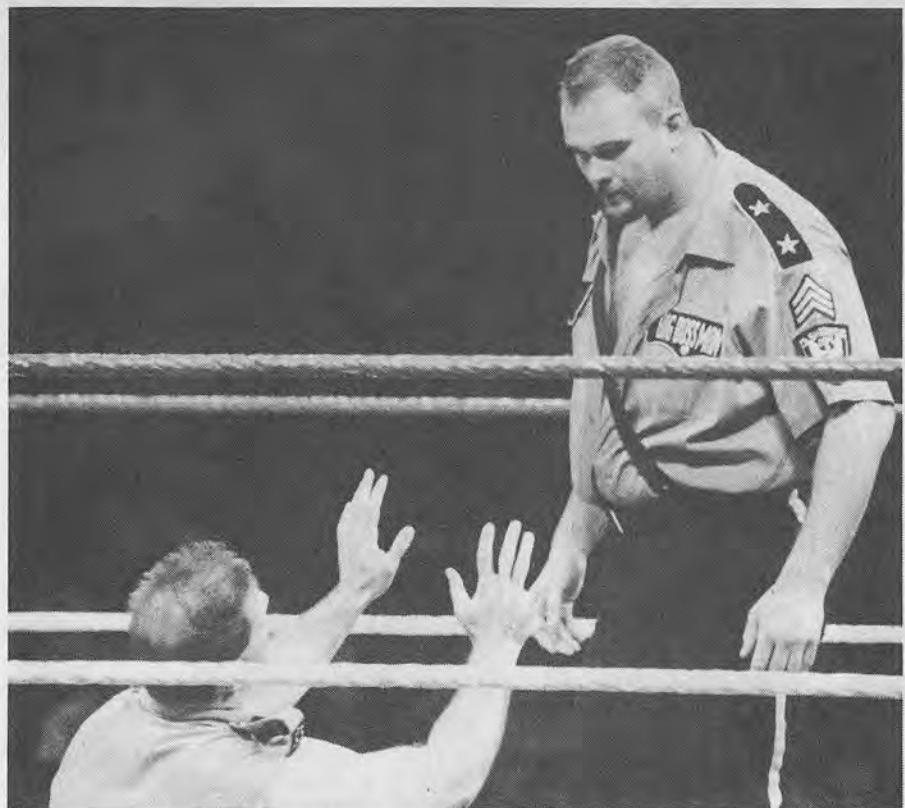
Hart has proven himself to be an outstanding singles wrestler. After a great tag team career with The Hart Foundation, Hart worked his way up the WWF ladder. He has incredible stamina, as shown in several marvelous performances in the WWF's Royal Rumble.

He is also a fine aerial and sci-

entific wrestler. Hart's well-rounded repertoire makes him a difficult opponent for any grappler. Of course, we shouldn't have to point out that as a member of The Hart Foundation, he was a devious rule-breaker. Basically, Hart has done it all.

So has Hennig. Thus, we have a stalemate. Hart's strengths neutralize Hennig's. Hennig's strengths neutralize Hart's. Hennig has the belt. Hart wants it. Hennig will do everything in his power to keep it.

Not this time, Bret. But don't worry. Your singles career is on the move up. This will not be your last chance at the I-C title.



Big Bossman has the toughness to make The Mountie beg for mercy (above), but Mountie has put Bossman down several times with his cattle prod (below).



BIG BOSSMAN VS. THE MOUNTIE

The WWF's nomination for most bizarre match of 1991 is strange only because of its stipulations: the loser will be fingerprinted, taken away in a paddywagon, and incarcerated for a night in a New York

City jail. This one-night jail term will also become part of his permanent criminal record.

So, in the WWF, losing a wrestling match has become a crime. What will they think of next?

Regardless of the stipulations, the "Jailhouse Match" between Big Bossman and The Mountie figures to be the most violent on the

card. It features Bossman, a former Georgia prison guard, against The Mountie, a self-proclaimed Canadian Mountie who has done everything in his power to disgrace this proud police corps.

The Mountie will have manager Jimmy Hart in his corner, which lends an unknown factor to the match. Bossman won't know when or how Hart will inevitably interfere. If Bossman can neutralize the Hart factor, he should win the match.

Bossman has successfully made the transition from rulebreaker to fan favorite without losing any of his famed killer instinct. Bossman is still one of the most dangerous men in the WWF, and his desire to crush The Mountie—and prove that his style of law and order is the right one—could make him unstoppable.

In this clash of philosophies, the cheating, do-anything-that's-necessary style of The Mountie has so far held the edge over Bossman. In several matches, The Mountie used a cattle prod to set up Bossman for the pin. The Mountie has his cattle prod, Bossman has his nightstick.

The Mountie's victories over Bossman could have one of two effects on the match. They could give The Mountie the confidence he needs to beat Bossman. Or, having overcome Mountie's early momentum, Bossman might be ready for the big victory at the right time.

It is senseless to compare them from a physical standpoint. Each holds his own special advantages in that category. Their killer instincts are equal. The difference is their styles, their philosophies of law—and of wrestling.

The Mountie has had the advantage, but it will all change on August 26.

Enjoy your night in prison, Mr. Mountie.

THE LEGION OF DOOM VS. THE NASTY BOYS

One week before this issue went to press, news came from the WWF that Hawk of the Legion of Doom would be out four to six weeks after undergoing surgery to correct a herniated disk in his back.

The importance of this cannot be stressed enough. If Hawk isn't 100 percent healthy, The Legion of Doom has absolutely no chance of beating WWF World tag team champs The Nasty Boys. Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs are just too tough. Just too nasty.

There's also the possibility that Hawk won't be back at all, which would force the Legion of Doom to forfeit the match ... and their pride.

Don't expect that to happen. Hawk will be back. And the guess here is that he'll be ready to rumble at SummerSlam.

Meanwhile, Animal has done his best to keep The Nasty Boys thinking. He pinned Knobs in several matches and also scored a series of less decisive victories over Sags. Animal has gained a psychological edge over both of these men.

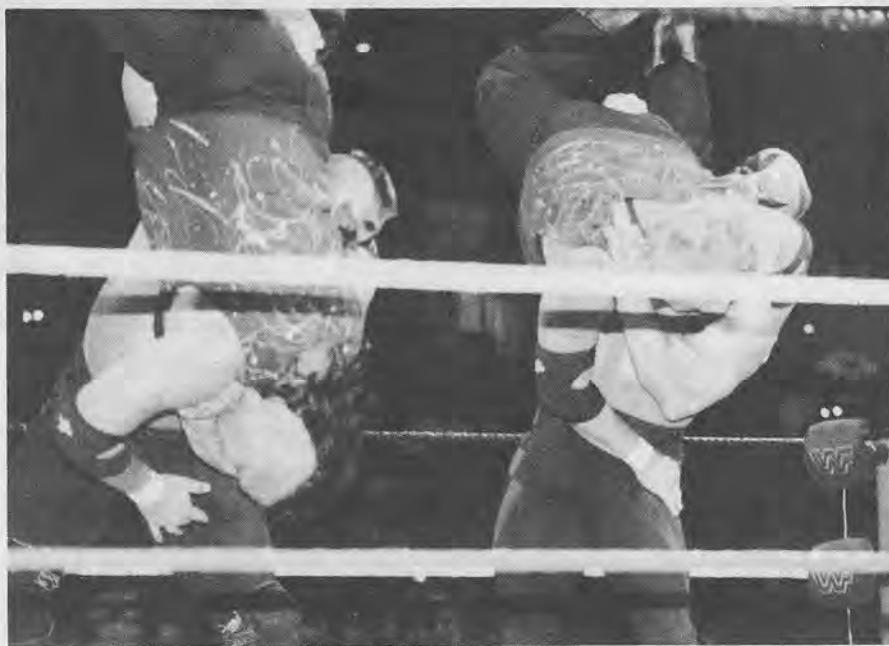
The difference is that at SummerSlam, the belts will be on the line. The Nasty Boys will have everything to lose. And at SummerSlam '91, their favorite out will be taken away: This will be a no-disqualification, no-countout contest. In other words, there'll be no escape for Knobs and Sags.

Hawk and Animal are former NWA and AWA World tag team champions. They would dearly love to add the WWF belts to their trophy chest. This is clearly their best opportunity to do so since arriving in the federation more than a year ago. The Nasty Boys are a beatable team.

Sags and Knobs are tough, they're disgusting, and they al-



The Nasty Boys are great at double-teaming (above), but when it's two on two against The Legion of Doom, they're doubled up themselves (below).



ways find a way to escape disaster. (Recently, they've taken to rubbing opponents' faces into their armpits!) But they cannot match the L.O.D. in three important departments: physique, mental conditioning, and overall ability.

Because Hawk is coming off of an injury, the Legion will want to finish off the Nastys quickly. Look for Animal and Hawk to storm the ring and attack Sags and Knobs

before the bell.

Stunned by the attack, Sags and Knobs will be defenseless. Hawk and Animal will launch a merciless all-out attack. And in less than three minutes, the belts will belong to The Legion of Doom. They will be the sport's first triple-crown tag team champions.

On a night of great moments, theirs will be the greatest moment of all.



Since 1985, WWF fans have been witness to the tempestuous relationship between Savage and Elizabeth. Their reunion at WrestleMania VII was unexpected and very emotional.

SAVAGE AND ELIZABETH GET MARRIED

First comes love, then comes ... Or is it, first comes love, then comes hate ... Or maybe it's first comes love, then comes hate, then comes love, then comes marriage.

In any event, it will finally happen at SummerSlam '91. Randy Savage and Elizabeth, wrestling's couple of the century, will tie the knot.

It's a match made in heaven that, hopefully, won't turn into a match made in hell.

Elizabeth and Savage's reunion at WrestleMania VII left not a dry eye in the house. There figures to be more of the same on August 26

when Savage walks down the aisle, followed by his lovely bride.

A few predictions: Savage will wear a white tuxedo. Elizabeth will wear a white dress with a long train. We're not going to guess who's going to give the bride away, but Vince McMahon would be an appropriate choice.

It would be nice to see Hulk Hogan in the wedding party, but we don't think that will happen. And don't expect to find Sensational Sherri among the well-wishers. In fact, Sherri and Ted DiBiase might try to buy off the minister.

Savage and Elizabeth, of course, are asking for trouble by having their wedding during a wrestling card with enemies all around. Let's hope that their wedding goes off

uninterrupted, but we doubt it.

After the wedding, Savage and Elizabeth will leave on their honeymoon, but their destination is a well-kept secret, as is the location of their new home. As for the wedding night itself, well, let's just say that Savage will proudly carry Elizabeth across the threshold.

Elizabeth and Savage have been through all of the ups and downs any relationship can offer. They split up for a long time and discovered they couldn't live without each other. Hopefully, Elizabeth's stability will compliment Savage's explosive nature.

It's finally time for the wedding bells to ring. The "Macho King" has his bride. May they live happily ever after!

HULK HOGAN & ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS. SGT. SLAUGHTER, GEN. ADNAN, AND COL. MUSTAFA

The match made in hell. Could there be a more appropriate name for a confrontation between the WWF's warring counterparts? If the ring is still standing at the end of the night, consider it an accomplishment.

Consider it a disappointment, too. Finally, once and for all, Hogan and Warrior will have the chance to put away this evil trio. Of course, it could happen the other way.

That would be a disaster for the WWF, and for the entire sport.

But it isn't likely to happen. Although Slaughter, Adnan, and Mustafa will have a three-on-two edge in manpower, Warrior and Hogan have a decided edge in powerful men.

Hogan, the WWF World champion, is determined to put away these men once and for all. His victory over Slaughter at Wrestlemania VII was not enough.

Warrior, the former WWF World champion, isn't carrying the weight of the U.S. on his shoulders like Hogan is, but his goal is the same: to rid the federation of the men who have done more to shame this country than any other men in the sport. The Warrior is a wild powerhouse. He has the tools to get the job done.

As for their counterparts, Slaughter's illicit attempts to destroy Hogan have all failed. He lost the belt to Hogan. He threw fire at Hogan, but the "Hulkster" managed to overcome that trauma, too. Slaughter is a misguided veteran with fading ability.

The same can be said for Gen. Adnan, who clearly has forsaken all wrestling ability in favor of illegal tactics. Adnan doesn't wrestle. He commits crimes.



Warrior blasts Adnan (above), and teams with Hogan to boot Slaughter (below). However, the evil Slaughter and his crew are far from ready to surrender.



Col. Mustafa is simply no factor. The former WWF World champion's skills have eroded dramatically. He does not belong in the same ring with Hogan and the Warrior.

The unknown factors here are how low Slaughter, Adnan, and Mustafa will stoop to defeat Hogan and the Warrior and how much influence Sid Justice will exert as special referee. The rulebreakers are on a mission, and their goal is to destroy Hogan and the Warrior while embarrassing the U.S. Re-

garding Justice, nobody knows exactly what the former Sid Vicious' plans are in the WWF. Assuming that he uses his enormous power to keep the wrestlers close to the rulebook, this bout belongs to Hogan and Warrior.

Hogan has made SummerSlam his personal victory party. Warrior, too, has had great success at the WWF's annual summer bash.

Determination and might overcome scheming and fight. Hogan and Warrior will leave their rivals lying in the sand. □

HOTSEAT

STEVE WILLIAMS

"THE WWF AND WCW CHAMPIONS ARE COWARDS!"

SLOWLY, MATCH BY match, wrestling fans around the world are starting to come to an astounding conclusion: Steve Williams is the strongest man in professional wrestling. It seems that with every new conquest, "Dr. Death" finds new ways to display his incredible power.

Take Williams' victory over Bam Bam Bigelow for the first UWF TV title at Beach Brawl '91 on June 9 in Palmetto, Florida. The beefy 368-pound Bigelow is one of the few men who can rival the former University of Oklahoma star's power. However, Williams pinned the New Jersey giant following an "Oklahoma stampede" powerslam in just 8:43. During the course of the match, Williams hurled Bigelow around the ring like no one ever had before.

After his title victory, however, the last thing Williams had on his mind was proving his superiority in strength. Instead, the former (meaning the Oklahoma-based UWF in 1987) and current UWF champion issued a bold challenge: He dared WCW World champion Hulk Hogan and WWF World champion Ric Flair to meet him in title-unification matches. Not surprisingly, Williams did not receive a re-

sponse to his challenge.

Associate Editor Bob Smith spoke with Williams just minutes before the huge grappler boarded an airplane for another trip to Japan, where he often competes. Before he left, however, Williams had a few pointed comments he wanted to express to American fans.

“

Where's Hulk Hogan?
Where's Ric Flair? Are these
guys **gutless**? Why don't they
answer my challenge?

”

Q: Steve, this is a first, as far as I can recall. Usually, we ask wrestlers if they'd like to be interviewed, but you came to us. What's on your mind?

A: Hey, I'm a frustrated guy right now, I don't mind telling you. What's the matter with people these days?

Q: What's wrong? Did we write something you didn't like?

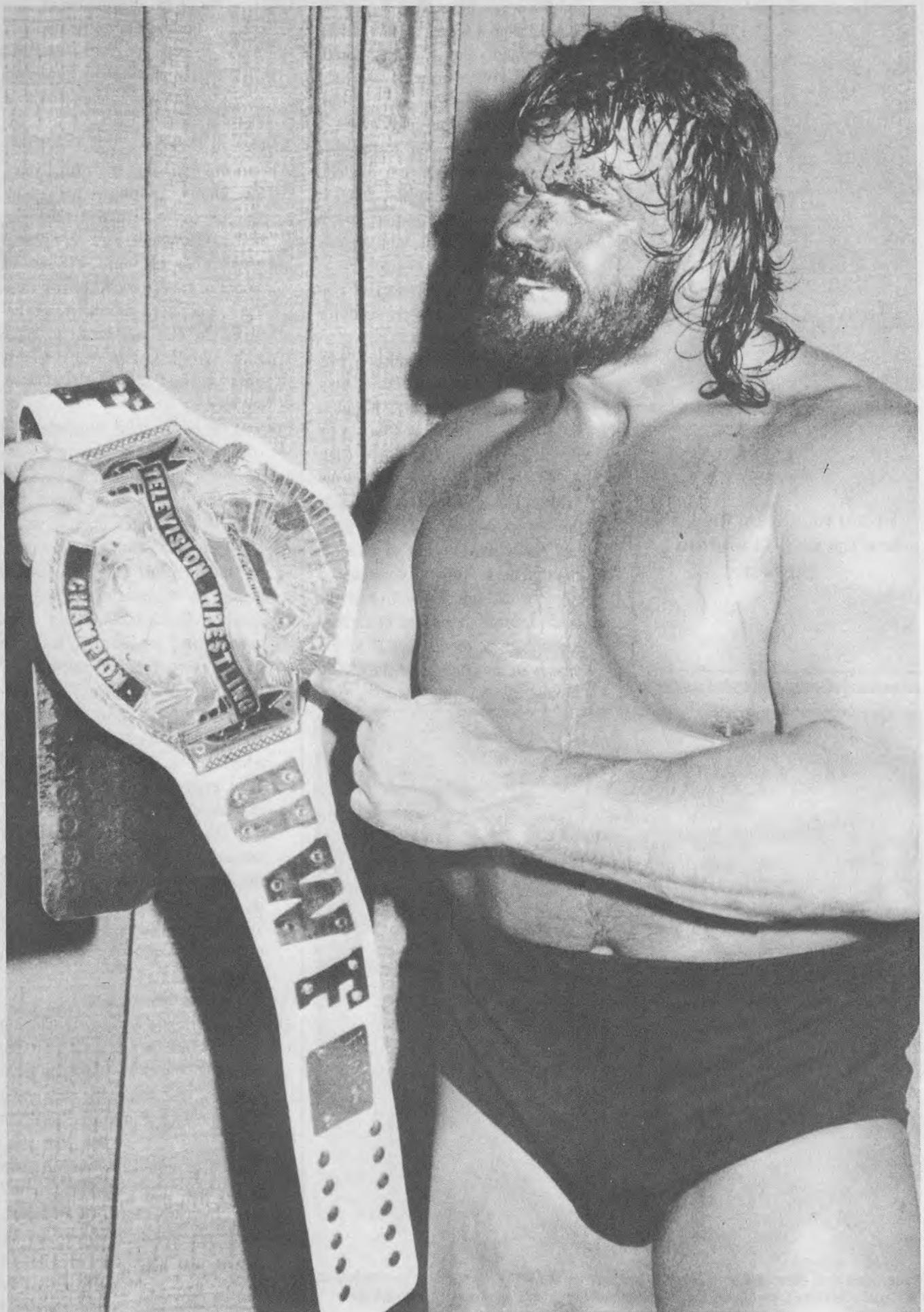
A: Naw, bad press is something I've always been able to handle—even from you, Smith. I'm cheased off about every other champion in this sport, to be honest with you.

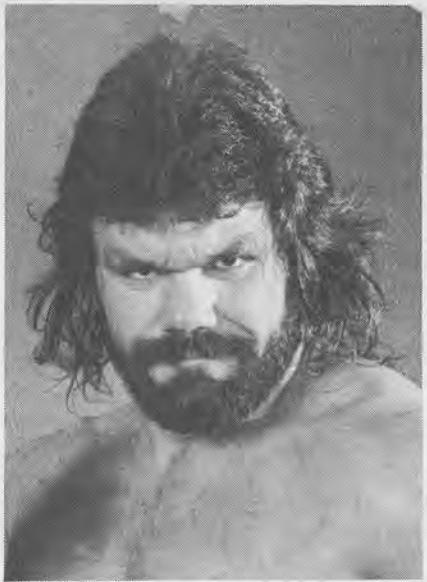
Q: What's the problem?

A: When I beat Bigelow for my UWF TV belt on June 9, the first thing I did was challenge every other champion in the sport to come and try to beat me. So where's Hulk Hogan? Where's Ric Flair? Are these guys **gutless**? Why don't they at least answer my challenge? As far as I'm concerned—and I never thought I'd be saying this—it looks like the WWF and WCW champions are cowards. Makes me ashamed to be a wrestler.

Q: Steve, did you *really* expect to get responses to your challenge? After all, federation-hopping is extremely rare these days. Hogan and Flair can't be expected to leave their host organizations to come to the UWF to wrestle you.

A: Why the hell not? Aren't there any men around anymore? Everywhere I look, I see nothing but quiche-eating, limp-wristed, soft little





“

I want to take on the best, beat the best—I want to *be* the best.

”



Three years ago, Steve Williams wrestled Ric Flair for the WCW World title. Now he wants Flair again, and he's perturbed that the "Nature Boy" isn't answering his challenge.

toadies who play all the federation games. That's why I'm so glad the UWF came along when it did. Sure, the UWF had a few growing pains, but I think the organization gets better and better all the time. I know the competition is tough—look at the matches I've had lately. Bigelow's a big, brawlin' bugger, and I've also had some tough matches against Don Muraco and Steve Ray, too.

Q: How about Paul Orndorff? You two engaged in a bloody feud for more than six months.

A: Yeah, but I think "Mr. Blunderful" has had more than enough of me. Frankly, it got a little bit boring beating him up all the time. You see, I need new challenges to keep me on top of my game. That's why Terry Gordy and I wrestle in Japan all the time, and that's why I want to face the champions of other federations. I want to take on the best, beat the best—I want to *be* the best. And the only way to do that is to pin guys who are considered stars. And I want *all* of 'em!

Q: How about the champions of federations other than WWF and WCW? You haven't mentioned USWA champion Jerry Lawler or Pacific Northwest titleholder Steve Doll?

A: Hey, if they have a belt, I'll take 'em on—and that goes for Japan, too. Jumbo Tsuruta is the All-Japan International and United National champion, and I think I could whip his butt. I'll bet he would at least *respond* to my challenge, but that's the difference between the U.S. and Japan to begin with. Wrestlers seem to have more pride in what they do over there, anyway.

Q: You've been quite outspoken in voicing your preference for Japanese wrestling in the last couple of years. Obviously, you don't feel the UWF measures up just yet.

A: Did I say that? Don't put words in my mouth, son. Like I've said all along, an organization is only as good as its champion. If I work hard, win all my matches, and take on the very finest competition, I think the UWF will soon be a major force in this sport. There's no reason why it shouldn't. Everywhere I look, I see big guys, small guys, even women—and they've all got talent. I'd match up the UWF Top 10 with that of most other leagues any day—and that includes the Japanese federations I compete in.

Q: What does winning the UWF TV title mean to your partnership with Gordy?

A: What does *that* mean?

Q: Well, you and Gordy were teaming in the UWF before you won the title, but obviously you can't do that now that you're the champion. Will you still team with Gordy in Japan?

A: Without a doubt. It was just two years ago that "Bamm Bamm" and I nearly tore each other's heads off during our feud in the NWA, or I guess they're calling it WCW now. But even when we were spilling each other's blood, I



Williams captured the UWF TV title with a victory over Bam Bam Bigelow. "Dr. Death" says he'll go anywhere in the world to defend that title.

learned to respect the man—and I respected him even more when he asked me to be his partner in the Orient. Right from the start, we starting tearing up All-Japan. I mean, we held the All-Japan and Pacific Wrestling Federation tag team titles at the same time. We'd still have 'em, too, if Dan Spivey and Stan Hansen hadn't fluked out a victory over us. That's all right. The only reason we haven't won those belts back is because I had to come back home and win the UWF TV belt. Now that we're going back, Terry and I will tear those guys up.

Q: You and Gordy have really struck up quite a friendship, haven't you?

A: Yeah, we really have. I can't help but like the kind of guy that will get in the ring with me—the strongest man in wrestling—and match me punch for punch, blow for blow. Terry's got guts, heart, what you'd probably call intestinal fortitude. We've done great things together, and I know we have some more things to accomplish in the coming years.

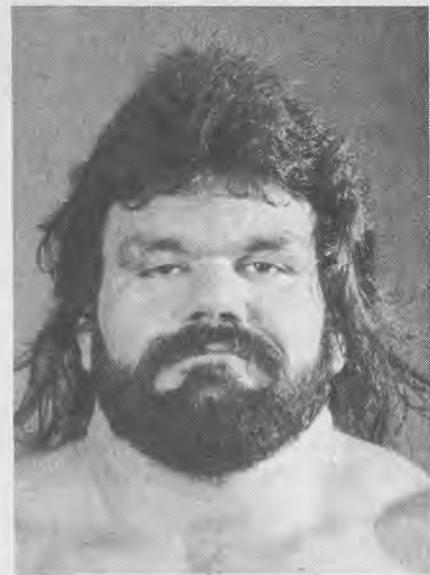
Q: What, specifically, would you like

to accomplish in the coming years?

A: Right now, I'd have to say my top goal is to elevate the UWF TV title. I consider this a worthy belt, but I know a lot of the fans considered the UWF too new to be as important as the championships of a lot of other leagues. Since the champions of the other federations won't come and get it on with me, my only solution is to travel, travel, and travel some more. Wrestle in every town in the U.S., and every country abroad. That's how champions of years past defended their titles, you know. They'd go from state to state and take on all the regional champions. That's what I'm going to do. I guess you could say I'm trying to bring back that old-time flavor to the UWF. I'll show the fans that there's more to being a *real* champion than posing and preening.

Q: Right now, Bigelow has been petitioning [UWF President] Herb Abrams about getting another crack at your belt. What do you say to that?

A: Hey, Bigelow don't have to petition *nobody*. If that big boy wants



“
I'll show the fans there's more to being a *real* champion than posing and preening.

”

another shot at me, I'll be happy to give it to him. He really gave me a hell of a match at Beach Brawl—it's the toughest time any American wrestler has given me in more than a year. Sure, we always beat on each other pretty good, but I wouldn't call what we got going a feud. I don't despise Bigelow. I don't feel anything at all toward him. We got a situation here unlike any I've ever been involved in. We're just two guys going after the same belt. None of that "good guy, bad guy" crap. To tell you the truth, it's pretty refreshing.

Q: Steve, thanks for your time today. I think a lot of fans would find your attitude pretty refreshing, too.

A: If they do, that's great. As long as they know I've issued a standing challenge to all the other champions, and they didn't even budge. As far as I'm concerned, that makes me the uncrowned champion of the world! □

IT IS AN invitation for disaster. One of the reasons wrestlers are so rarely interviewed in the ring is because something always seems to go wrong. Attacks during studio interviews aren't exactly unusual, but they almost become expected during in-the-ring interview sessions.

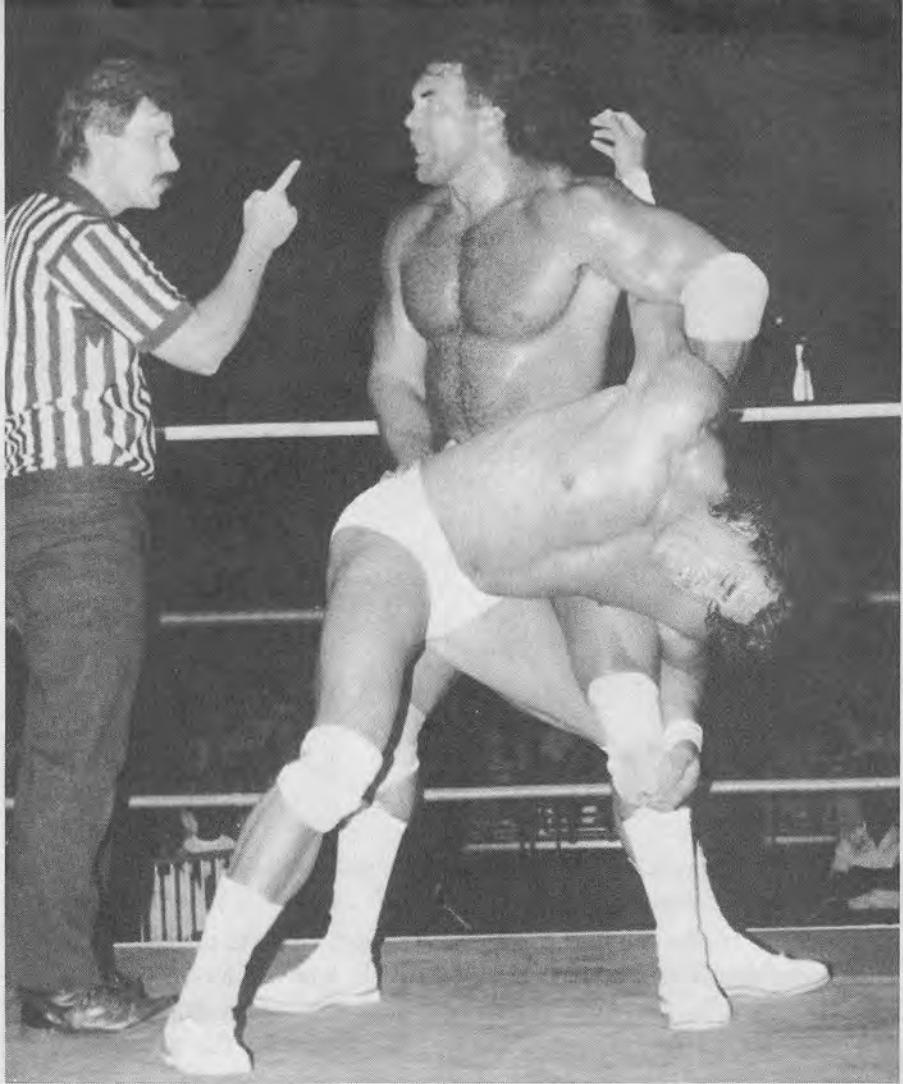
There's something about the ring that draws wrestlers to it. Perhaps the wrestler interviewed wants to be attacked. Perhaps he is subtly issuing a challenge to all of the other wrestlers. After all, what is the purpose of being interviewed in the ring?

To bring on uninvited guests, of course.

If that's the case, Tom Zenk certainly got what he asked for. He wanted his return from his bicep injury to be seen by everyone. He wanted it to be a celebration.

"We wanted to do the interview in the studio," announcer Jim Ross said, "but Tom would have none of it. He needed to be in the spotlight, and I guess after all of that time out of the spotlight, who could blame him?"

So, Ross got into the ring and introduced Zenk. "Z-Man" proudly climbed into the ring. The crowd



DIAMOND STUDD VS. TOM ZENK:

When Tom Zenk returned to WCW,

Diamond Studd was there to welcome him

back. Their meeting ignited a feud that pits two

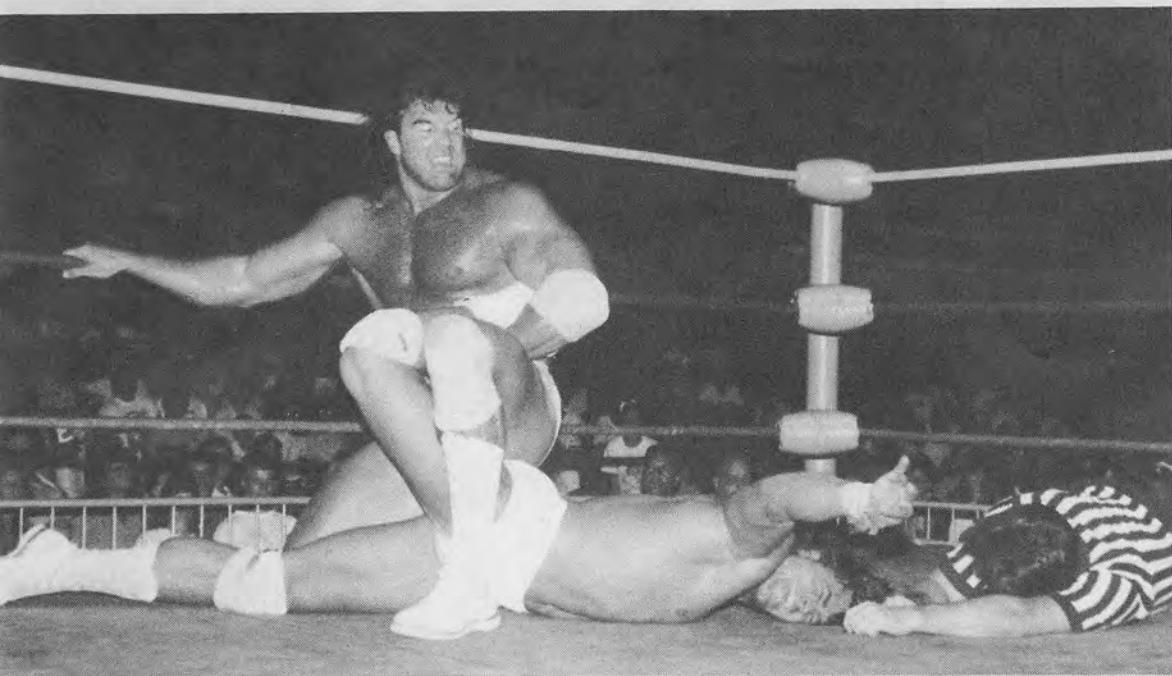
of the best looking men in the federation in

a heated battle that could

spell the end of one—or both—of

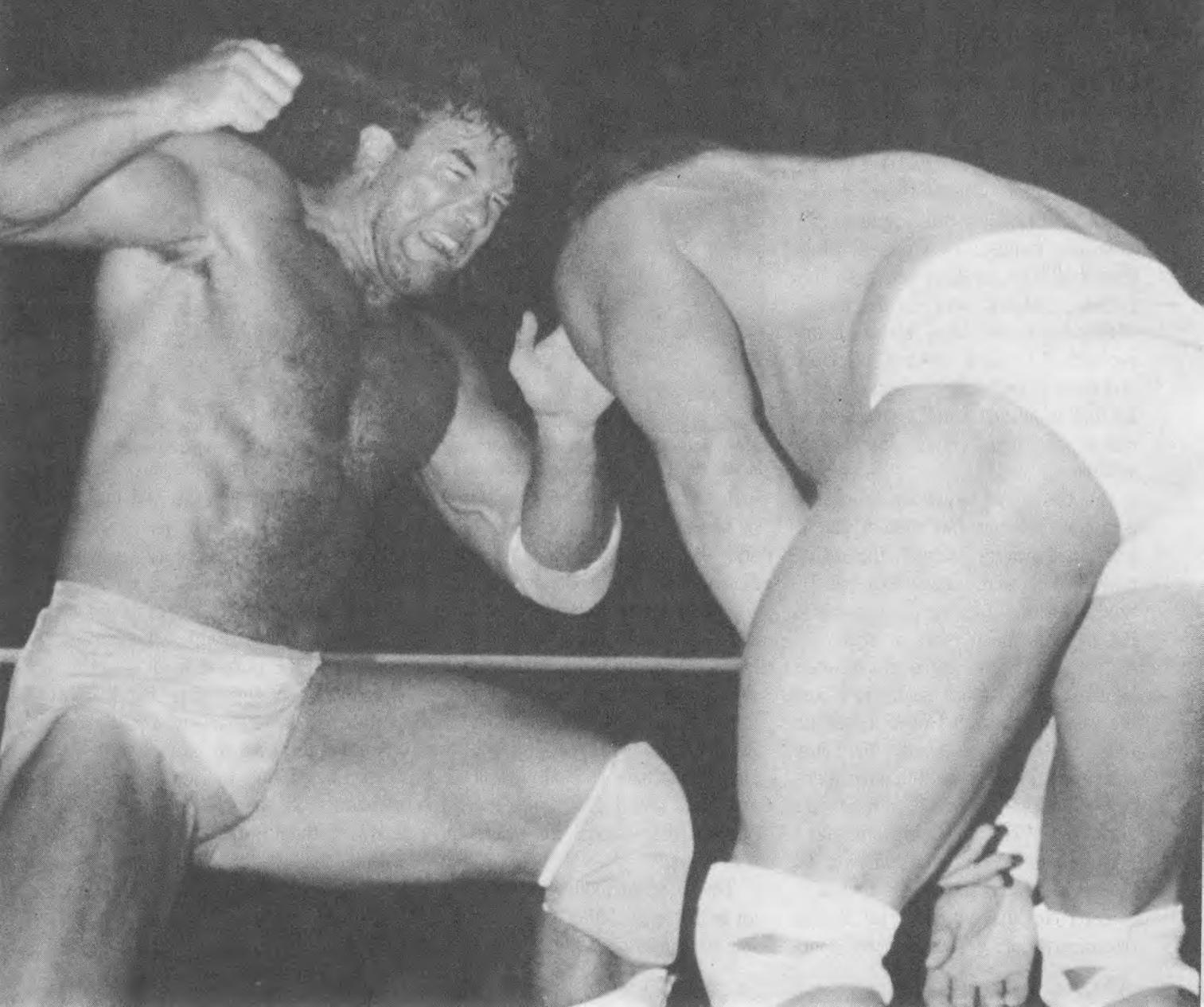
their careers!

**A BATTLE
OF SEX APPEAL**



No sooner had Tom Zenk returned to WCW than he was confronted by Diamond Studd, who used his size advantage to overcome "Z-Man's" quickness.

Photos by Ed Crawford



cheered loudly. The women in the crowd shrieked with excitement.

Zenk told the crowd that he was happy to be back. Then The Diamond Studd and his manager, "Diamond" Dallas Page, decided "Z-Man's" private interview time was over.

"Who do you think you are?" Page taunted.

"This is *my* interview time," Zenk retorted. "Get outta here!"

But Page and Studd weren't there to follow orders. They were there to welcome Zenk back to WCW.

When "Z-Man" poked Page, Studd went on the attack. Before long, Zenk was being double-teamed by Page and Studd. The interview was over. WCW's latest feud had begun.

It is a feud that pits one of the most popular wrestlers in the federation against one of the most hated. It is a feud that pits an outstanding scientific wrestler against a cruel brawler. And it is a feud that pits one sex symbol against another.

Zenk's good looks are no secret. In the AWA, the WWF, and WCW, he has drawn rave reviews from female admirers, thanks to his all-American looks and honest, down-to-earth wrestling style. Thousands of fans are ready to ride "Z-Man's" wave to the top.

Studd is more blatant about his appearance. He likes to strut his stuff, and there is definitely a brand of woman that is attracted to Studd's combination of slime, crime, and beauty sublime.

But this is not a war over looks. It is a war between two men trying to work their way up through the WCW ranks. They were drawn together by Studd's jealousy over Zenk's popularity, but there is much more at stake.

"I'm glad Studd came along when he did," the "Z-Man" said. "He's just the type of opponent I need to get me right back into the swing. My injury cost me a lot of time, but now that's behind me and the feud with Studd's ahead. After I'm done with him, and I promise you it won't take too long, I'll be on to bigger and better things."

Zenk should be forewarned. As he discovered during the interview-gone-



A few more slams like this, and Studd may be in position to claim victory over the "Z-Man." However, Zenk says he refuses to let Studd block his path to the top.

bad, Studd doesn't arrive for matches by himself. Page's stable is well-stocked and always on call. Fantasia, Michael Hayes, and Jimmy Garvin are always willing to lend a helping hand.

"Like I said," Page said, "The Diamond Exchange is gonna make The Four Horsemen look like small change by the time we're done. I don't think Zenk knows what he's getting into. He's gonna have to deal with all of us, and that's gonna give him a quick trip back to the hospital, or wherever he was hiding."

This is an incredibly important feud for both men. "Z-Man" has to work his way back into contention for a shot at

either the U.S. or the World title. He has spent too much time on the fringes of contention. His shots at glory have been too brief, too infrequent. Zenk has the ability to reach the top of the wrestling world if he can get past this one difficult feud.

Studd, on the other hand, must prove he's more than just a pretty face. He may also want to prove that he can get by without outside interference. Undoubtedly, he has no intention of proving that. But if he can't get past Zenk, he'll have a hard time rising through the WCW ranks. His career will stall.

"That's my job right now, not only

to win, but to stop Studd and his buddies," Zenk said. "When I was hurt, I saw some of the tricks they pulled and I didn't like it at all. Those guys were always on my agenda, and now I've got a once-in-a-lifetime chance to stop them for the good of

wrestling."

Studd laughed at Zenk's bravado. He is convinced he can stylize his way past Zenk, and that he'll do it in a hurry.

"Zenk's already gotten one taste of my medicine, soon he'll get another," Studd said. "He attacked my manager and I'm not gonna forgive him for that. I intend to prove to the world that I'm the better man. Everybody already knows I'm the better *looking* man."

The "Z-Man" will contend that. So will his fans. He also has no intention of backing down to Studd. He is primed and ready for attack.

Perhaps the interview in the ring was a mistake. Perhaps it set up Zenk for a career-threatening injury. But it was what "Z-Man" wanted, a moment in the spotlight, a moment to tell the wrestling world that he's back.

Well, he's back. And now he's back in action, full-throttle, full-speed ahead!

He'd better be ready. □



Zenk not only has Studd to contend with (above), he must find a way to counter the interference of Studd's manager, "Diamond" Dallas Page (right).



The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

SEE THEM BOTH in a ring, and it looks like the day-after-Christmas sale on leftover ornaments at K-Mart. But, there is much more to P.N. News and Johnny B. Badd than their colorful (some would say garish) ring attire.

Both of these WCW newcomers made their debuts during May, and fans were not prepared for their respective unique styles. When the huge 402-pound News comes to the ring to the accompaniment of a driving bass beat, fans wonder if there's going to be a concert instead of a wrestling match.

Actually, there is. When News grabs a microphone and unleashes his expert rap poetry, fans just naturally rise to their feet. And when they see his incredible "broken record"—his amazing splash from the top rope—fans can't help but respond with cheers. There's little doubt this News has been very good for WCW fans.

Badd also made an impact upon his arrival in WCW, but in a vastly different way. Managed by the devious Teddy Long, this pompadour-sporting grappler seems more than a bit effeminate—until he gets in the ring. It's there that Johnny displays devastating punching power that exposes his past as a top amateur boxer. And under the boas and earrings is a chiseled physique shows a strong dedication to his sport.

The sudden rivalry between these men seems quite natural. News expounds rap, the newest musical style, while Badd struts to the ring accompanied by '50s rock 'n' roll. Perhaps jealous of News' strong fan following, Badd challenged him at Clash of the

ONE O



"You can talk the talk/But you can't walk the walk/When I rock you with my suplex/You'll let out a squawk."
—P.N. News

Champions XV. Now, both of these men are vowing to drive each other—and their music—out of WCW for good.

Never ones to let a good rivalry go by without a verbal confrontation, we hooked News and Badd up by phone for one of the wildest exchanges we've ever heard . . . "One on One."

P.N. NEWS:

(rapping) Yo, Johnny B. Badd/I'm here to state/That the music that moves you doesn't sound too great/It's passe and lame, just like your style/Unlike this bad man, who's gon' be 'round for a while!

JOHNNY B. BADD:

Hush, child! What's that trash you're talking? Sounds like a

big fad to me. Remember, P.N.—what's that stand for, Portly No-Talent? Anyway, you don't realize that rock 'n' roll never forgets. Remember disco? New wave? Punk? They're long gone, but the greats, Chuck Berry and Little Richard, my personal favorite, are eternal. Just like your big belly!

PNN: Yo, Johnny, you dork/You're skirtin' the issue/Like when I slapped you at Clash XV/I ripped your sissy face like tissue. Word to your mother!

JBB: That wasn't nothin'! My great manager, Mr. Long, told me to get out that ring before I smushed my fresh do. You see, unlike you, you derivative prod-

W ONE



"When I blast you with my left hook—the same one that knocked out Razor Ruddock—they'll be wrappin' you up in a body bag."

—Johnny B. Badd

uct of the unwashed masses, I've got better things to do with my time than spit grade-school level poetry at the fans. I'm too busy winning big matches and making my way up the WCW ladder. If you tried to make *your* way up the ladder, you'd probably bust the rungs, you Big Mac-eatin' fool!

PNN: You can talk the talk/But you can't walk the walk/When I rock you with my suplex/You'll let out a squawk/When I mash you with my soupbone/You'll be in the hereafter/You won't be in no shape/To put on no Max Factor. Yo baby, yo baby, yo!

JBB: *Oooh*, I don't have to sit here and listen to this. The only rea-

son I got in the ring while you were in there with those two rappin' ring rats is because I wanted to challenge you to a match. Naturally, you couldn't accept my challenge like a real man, and you got all hot under the collar. Child, you just don't have a clue, do you? When I blast you with my left hook—the same one that knocked out Razor Ruddock, I'll have you know—they'll be wrappin' you up in a body bag. *Oooh*, wrappin'! Body bag! I made a funny!

PNN: Sticks and stones/Can't damage this brick house/Neither can the jibes/From a puny little mouse/I ain't seen no stamina/I ain't seen no brawn/Just a few

minutes with me/And you'll be long gone/'Cuz I got my posse/Backing me strong/It's where I belong/Out there in the throng. Word up!

JBB: What's the matter, Purely Nothing? Can't you talk without rapping? I think you're a little touched in the head, child. You think I need to have the fans behind me to be a success? Get real, peep. All I need is the brilliance of Teddy, my own two fists, and my natural talent. You ain't seen what I'm capable of yet. You say I don't have stamina, but that's because I've been putting all my opponents down in seconds. It takes you minutes just to get in the ring, let alone get to wrestling. You think suplexes and slams are the route to success, but I knock 'em out early and often—just like Mike Tyson.

PNN: You don't like my rap/It's think that's great/You just jealous/'Cuz you don't rate/You're lost in a time warp with no way out/You see me make the people jump and shout/I'm the latest and the greatest, I'm the top of the charts/You need more than just punches in the wrestling art. Boy, you need to do some chillin'!

JBB: That tears it, ham boy . . .

PNN: That's *home* boy.

JBB: No, that's *ham* boy, and don't you forget it, Porky Pig. Just wait 'til we get in the ring. I'm gonna beat your head into your shoulders so bad you'll have to unbutton your shirt to brush your teeth in the morning. I can't wait to lay you out. I can't wait for Teddy to give me the okay to let loose, 'cause an inner-city sweat hog like you never seen my likes before. So hush!

PNN: (*silent*)

JBB: Well?

PNN: Johnny B. Badd, you gone too far/You just started the third World War/You better buy Band-Aids, you better take a pill/'Cuz you'll be getting a big hospital bill/For the pain and damage I'll inflict on you/Who's a freakazoid woosy who belongs in a zoo. So get the funk outta my face, will ya? □



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



The Undertaker (and his manager, Paul Bearer) should have been suspended or fined for locking The Ultimate Warrior in a coffin, in reader Ryan Andrews' view.

Bearer for locking the Warrior in a coffin. Warrior could easily have suffocated to death! Tunney should put his foot down before something like that ever happens again.

RYAN ANDREWS
Cicero, IL

THE KING OF PAIN

The story about Jerry Lawler in your August issue ("Jerry Lawler's Silent Scream: 'I Can't Take The Pain—Stop! Please Stop!'") tells me conclusively that it's time for "The King" to retire—and *stay* retired.

For many years, Lawler has been a very courageous athlete. He's fought some incredibly tough men in his time; he's even squared off against men like Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. So when he implies that the pain is getting to be too much for him to take, I have to believe him.

HELEN SUTTON
Savannah, GA

COCKY? HARDLY

To even suggest that The Steiners are getting too arrogant ("Are The Steiners Getting Too Cocky For Their Own Good?" August 1991) is irresponsible. Rick and Scott are indeed very proud of their abilities, but they



The Steiners aren't too arrogant, they're just too good for any other team to handle, says reader Laura Petrovich.

are not going to fall in love with what they can do in the ring.

The Steiners are, in my opinion, the greatest tag team in the sport's history. They can't be called anything else. If they can be accused of anything, it's of being almost *too* good!

Don't listen to the critics, boys, just keep on winning.

LAURA PETROVICH
Lincoln, NE

(Continued on page 54)

THIS MONTH IN...

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



STING'S shocking admission: "Thank you, **NIKITA KOLOFF**, you woke me up!"



As **SENSATIONAL SHERRI** tangles with **VIRGIL(INA)**, the **RODDY PIPER-TED DIBIASE** war becomes a comedy of terrors

PLUS . . .

"Superstar Dream Match:" **EL GIGANTE** vs. **ANDRE THE GIANT** . . . For crimes against wrestling, these 10 men (including **RICK MORTON**, **SGT. SLAUGHTER**, and **EARTHQUAKE**) MUST BE BANNED! . . . "Superstar Interview" with **DORY FUNK JR.** . . . Former WWF champ **BOB BACKLUND** contemplates a full-time comeback

All this—and much more . . . in the October 1991 issue of *Wrestling Superstars*

STILL ON SALE!

—SPORTS REVIEW—

Wrestling



Find out why WCW World champion **RIC FLAIR** is demanding so many best-of-three-falls matches



Can **SID JUSTICE** bring true justice to the WWF?

PLUS . . .

SPECIAL SECTION: Rare photos of such WWF favorites as **HULK HOGAN**, **ULTIMATE WARRIOR**, **RICK STEAMBOAT**, **CURT HENNIG**, and more! . . . Discover wrestling's breeding ground for tomorrow's superstars . . . A bizarre "Sports Review Interview" with **KEVIN SULLIVAN**

All this—and much more . . . in the September 1991 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*

STILL ON SALE!

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

SORRY, LIZ

Liz Hunter cannot be blamed for being enthusiastic about the LPWA ("On Assignment" August 1991), but I don't agree with her that the LPWA is going to be the next big thing in wrestling.

Terri Power, Reggie Bennett, and Madusa Miceli are all great athletes, but I just don't see women's wrestling becoming as popular as men's. The same predictions were being made back when Wendi Richter was champion, but they never came close to being realized.

Hunter should be credited, though, for acknowledging these fine athletes.

JOSEF BRUZIP
Terre Haute, IN

NO WIMP HE

Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat never had a problem with a "wimp."

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Rick Steamboat battles Haku. Reader Betty Jamison maintains that "The Dragon" never had a wimpy image, so stories suggesting that he did are way off-base.

image, as far as I'm concerned, so your article suggesting that he does is way off-base.

How can you accuse a man of being a wimp because he enjoyed being around his wife and son and wanted to make them a big part of his career? I saw nothing wrong with the times Rick brought them to the ring with him. In fact, I think it made him even a better man.

Yes, he breathes fire now as "The Dragon," but it's not because he's trying to erase an unfavorable image. It's simply because he wanted to do something new and exciting—which he certainly has accomplished.

BETTY JAMISON
Inola, OK

WHAT A BLAST

I really enjoyed your "Blast From The Past" (August 1991) with Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji against Jay Strongbow and Sonny King. I wasn't at that particular match, but I remember reading about what a great match it was.

At the time, Tanaka and Fuji were the foremost practitioners of devious wrestling, and Fuji carries that attitude to the men he manages today. Unfortunate, but true.

RANDY BECK
Albany, NY

PISTOL POWER

Tracey Smothers and Steve Armstrong are simply sensational, and the only reason they are not the U.S. tag team champions is because The Freebirds are the biggest cheaters in WCW.

If there is any justice, the Pistols will be granted as many title matches as they want. When that happens, the Freebirds won't last long. They'll fold under the pressure of the Pistols.

RICHARD SMITS
Newark, DE

BAN EMBRY NOW!

When are the USWA promoters and officials going to get their act together and kick Eric Embry out of the federation? Embry is not the biggest or strongest or even the most talented wrestler in the federation, but he is by far the most devious man there.

Embry is dangerous not only because of what he himself can do, but because of his ability to persuade equally crafty men, like Tom Prichard, to team up with him. Together, they wreak havoc on a federation that is almost afraid to do anything to stop them.

It's time for the USWA to put a stop to Embry and his shenanigans.

TERRY HOWARD
Flint, MI □

BACK ISSUES OF



Inside Wrestling

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

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January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

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April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvin, Martel, Fab Ones.

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January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

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February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.

April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.

May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.

June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.

July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.

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January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



Steve "Dr. Death" Williams' victory over Bam Bam Bigelow was a convincing demonstration of his power and experience.

Williams did. Maybe the experts are right, maybe Steve is the most powerful man in wrestling."

It was an incredible statement by a man who has had an incredible career. The former bounty hunter, a man who backs down from nobody, was tipping his hat to another of the toughest men in the sport. It was quite a moment.

Later on, Bigelow expanded on his statements. He watched a tape of the match, took a few notes (that's something he wouldn't have done at the helter-skelter start of his career), and was, indeed, introspective.

"There's gonna have to come a time when I win a major title," Bigelow said. "I've come close a

lot of times, and I have no doubt that I have the ability, but so far it just hasn't happened. I don't think Steve was the better man at Beach Brawl. It was just a matter of who outlasted who. I had him on the ropes all night, but he fought back, and when he caught me with that flying tackle, I was just stunned. I was on the offensive all night, and all of a sudden I was on the defensive. I had trouble making the switch."

This might sound like an excuse, but it's a reasonable explanation for a very reasonable loss. Bigelow's game plan was well thought-out. There's another difference from the old Bigelow. He executed his game plan and, indeed, outwrestled Williams for most of the evening. Unfortunately for Bigelow, when it came time for

a decision, Williams—who has a lot more experience at these things—executed better.

"I think Bigelow wrestled a great match, but one of the differences between champions and contenders is the ability to put away an opponent," Williams said. "I agree, there were at least three or four times in the match when Bigelow should have had me pinned, but I was able to get out of it. But, you know, I'd hate to have to make a living wrestling that guy."

He'll have to do it for a while. The UWF immediately ordered a series of rematches between Bigelow and Williams. Now there's a question to be answered: Would repeated losses frustrate Bigelow, or would he continue to learn from his mistakes?

That's a big question, because Bigelow has always been easily frustrated. He is not the kind of man who takes a step backward before taking a step forward. His idea of learning from mistakes has always been to teach the other guy a lesson . . . illegally.

He has a short fuse. He has very little patience. He leaves federations in a huff because of circumstances that might have nothing to do with what goes on in the ring. He does not examine himself. His career has been a series of moves from one federation to another. He refuses to give himself a chance.

"Maybe that's true," Bigelow said, "but I've always been told that I have what it takes to get to the top, and I believe that."

He certainly does. He has the size, he has the athletic ability, and he has that intimidating appearance. It now seems that Bigelow is headed in the right direction. His promise will be fulfilled. His reaction after the loss to Williams was telling.

I don't think he'll have to react to losses much longer. □

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

so should WCW. In fact, unless Alexandra York starts showing some more leg, I say her Foundation is doomed. Like Liz Hunter says two pages down, we need some real men.

NEWS ITEM: CHANNEL GRAZING YIELDS TRAGIC RESULTS

Home alone on Monday night, engaged in some energetic channel hopping. MTV offers a Van Halen video composed entirely of women getting undressed. Unfortunately, it is only five minutes long. Click.



Andre the Giant is still the mumbling, stumbling "Giant Idiot," says Ellner.

ABC is showing a movie based on the story of a boy whose crazy father lit him on fire. This extends the tearjerker genre to unendurable lengths. I cannot watch this poor kid, burnt over 90 percent of his body, struggle with his stuffed animals. Click.

HBO is also playing it for laughs this night, telecasting the James Brady story, about the former presidential press secretary who was paralyzed by would-be presidential assassin John Hinckley. Ho, ho, ho, as Brady tries to regain his speech. Click.

Yet over on Channel 12 is the most tragic man on TV this night. Though he is talking about going

into battle, he can barely walk better than the little burnt boy and his speech isn't nearly as intelligible as Brady's.

We are talking about, of course (everyone together now), Andre the Giant Idiot.

Andre the Giant Idiot was mumbling up a storm about Earthquake. On this night, Andre didn't appear much bigger than his side-kick, professional parasailer Brutus Beefcake. His back is crooked, hands gnarled, shoulders stooped. He walks with a cane and talks with a limp. "Arasked blaeidadk fkesee Earthquake!" the Giant Idiot said menacingly.

It was really pathetic and extremely satisfying. In the latest issue of *Wrestling 91*, my colleagues finally picked up my call and begged the Giant Idiot to retire. What they fail to realize is that it is obvious that Andre is no longer capable of making his own decisions. His mind is shot. As long as he can generate publicity and can fill seats for Vince McMahon, the WWF will keep wheeling his crippled carcass out.

NEWS ITEM: NIKITA KOLOFF THREATENS 10-YEAR-OLD STING SUPPORTER

I don't understand what the commotion is all about. The kid could barely talk; his face was painted—obviously a juvenile delinquent in waiting. Koloff did him, his parents, and society a favor by putting the fear of God in him. Teach him a little respect. That's what's wrong with this country. Everyone is scared to discipline their children. What we'll end up with is a nation full of soft-bodied mama's boys who won't be able to stand up to the Nikita Koloffs of the world.

Plus, the kid is probably a hero in school; all his buddies are



Ellner says Nikita Koloff should be commended for instilling fear into little kids.

green with envy and the girls all want to touch him. He gets milk and cookies every day and doesn't even have to work. Tough life.

NEWS ITEM: MR. FUJI TO WRESTLE BOBBY HEENAN

This is like paying to see two CPA's punch each other out. Come to think of it, I'd love for Mr. Fuji to knock my accountant out, but I'll have to wait 18 months before he's paroled. □

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



Though Flair may have been physically exhausted following his bout against Tatsumi Fujinami at SuperBrawl, he did win the match, Hunter reminds us.

work . . ." penned one enthusiastic scribe. Another wrote, "It appeared as if Flair had signed up for a wrestling lesson, so dominant was his Japanese opponent."

It was further reported that after Flair scored his pinfall victory—oh, by the way, Flair won the match without any outside help—he walked slowly to his private dressing room and collapsed on the floor, just two feet away from a soft cot that would have broken his fall. The image of the battered and bleeding champion is a disquieting one, especially since next door Fujinami showed no visible signs of strain.

But, wait a minute: Flair had just pinned the man Lou Thesz has called "the greatest wrestler in the world." Should we mention

that Fujinami is several years Flair's junior, or that he wrestles a schedule roughly half as busy as the champ's?

Aren't we missing something here? If Fujinami is the greatest thing since frozen sushi, why isn't he WCW World champion? A familiar refrain, no? If Flair is damaged goods, why can't someone beat him? Simple question, no? Forget the cheating and the disqualifications; if his opponents are so vastly superior, if Flair is the ruined husk of a man they say he is, surely they should have figured out a way to defeat him. Victories, not excuses, are what this sport is about.

Imagine the foolishness and small-mindedness of a reporter who finds fault in Flair for being tired after a match. Did someone



Flair has good reason to gloat, as far as Hunter is concerned.

criticize Muhammad Ali for going to a hospital after his first fight against Joe Frazier? No, he was lauded for giving it his all. No one suggested he wouldn't box again. Flair is older, his recovery rate is not what it used to be. Applaud the extra effort it takes to perform at his level, at his age, night after night.

I'm not absolving Flair of the criticisms leveled against him. He has earned his share of demerits. But to suggest in any way that Flair is finished and washed up is absurd. He has defended the belt almost continuously for an entire decade, sometimes nobly, other times not, repelling every challenge that's come his way. He has never ducked an opponent.

It's time to remind ourselves of the legend we have in our midst. Flair is wrestling's answer to Nolan Ryan. You expect that he's done all he can, but then he comes back to defeat "the world's greatest wrestler," to throw another no-hitter. It is not likely we will see his kind again soon. Remember that the next time you scream for his head. □

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TITO SANTANA

(Continued from page 28)



When they squared off in the Bahamas, Atlas was disqualified after he whacked Santana with a pair of brass knuckles. But Tito doesn't want to win this way.

his other goons. But if you want to help me, I'll be really glad to have you do it."

Santana had only one request of Putski and the others, that they keep his presence there a secret until he was ready to strike at Atlas.

The moment arrived after Atlas defeated Dusty Wolfe. When the former "Mr. USA" challenged any of his many opponents to get in the ring and take him on, Tito charged out and dropkicked Atlas out of the ring.

"Boy, you should've seen the look on Atlas' face!" Putski said with a sly laugh. "He couldn't believe his eyes! And that manager of his, Rumble, was almost in shock!"

Santana immediately demanded that IWCCW promoters give him a match with Atlas. It was fine with them; they were happy to have a top WWF star competing in their organization. Atlas, though caught off-guard by Santana's initial ap-

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pearance, looked forward to confronting him.

"That Chico Santana, he's messed with the wrong man this time!" he bellowed. "He could've had it easy and stayed in the WWF. But, no, he had to be a big man and stick his nose in my business. That fool has now got to pay the price, and it ain't no dollar-ninety-eight!"

Their confrontation came in Nassau, Bahamas, on June 15. More than a grudge match, Atlas' ICW title was up for grabs. Facing his toughest challenger yet, Atlas wrestled one of his best matches ever.

For Santana, the title was unimportant. He only wanted revenge for his friend Putski. With that for inspiration, he dominated the match. In fact, he appeared to be on the verge of winning when Rumble got up on the ring apron. While Santana went after the wily manager, Atlas pulled out a pair of brass knuckles, placed them on his hand, and blasted Santana from behind.

Luckily for Tito, the referee had seen what Atlas had done, and promptly disqualified him. But instead of celebrating a victory over the champion, Santana seethed with anger.

"It wasn't enough for Tito to win like that," Putski said. "With him, the only thing that counts is pinning a man's shoulders to the mat or making him submit. He couldn't accept this kind of win."

Less than an hour after the contest, Santana had another request of the promoters: a rematch. Despite being in the midst of a busy WWF match schedule, Santana would not be satisfied until he could beat Atlas *his* way.

"That's the man Tito is," Putski said. "That's why I'm proud to call him friend. Together, we're gonna show Atlas that he made the biggest mistake of his career when he tried to put me out."

Maybe it's time for Atlas to call a few of *his* friends.

If he has any.

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► SPECIAL ISSUE #1

The spectacular August 1989 edition of *The Wrestler* provided very special FULL-COLOR coverage of one of the most historic days in wrestling history: SuperCard Sunday. On that day, WrestleMania V and Clash of the Champions VI took place, and this once-in-a-lifetime magazine provides all the action and analysis of a once-in-a-lifetime day!



► SPECIAL ISSUE #2

The March 1990 edition of *Inside Wrestling* is a collector's dream: A magnificent eight-page FULL-COLOR section highlights all the big events of the '80s! Plus, you get a dynamic and fast-paced year-by-year review of the decade. It's a magazine you'll cherish forever, truly a one-of-a-kind piece of wrestling history!

► SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—**HULK HOGAN**
(2) WWF World champion
2—**RIC FLAIR**
(1) WCW World champion
3—**LEX LUGER**
(3) WCW U.S. champion

4—**CURT HENNIG**
(5) WWF I-C champion
5—**STING**
(5) No. 2 contender: WCW title
6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
(6) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
7—**JERRY LAWLER**
(11) USWA champion

8—**BOBBY EATON**
(7) No. 4 contender: WCW title
9—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
(9) No. 2 contender: WWF title
10—**ERIC EMBRY**
(10) USWA Southern champion
11—**BRET HART**
(-) No. 1 contender: I-C title

12—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
(13) UWFTV champion
13—**TONY ATLAS**
(15) ICW champion
14—**TOM PRICHARD**
(-) USWA Texas champion
15—**STEVE DOLL**
(14) PNW champion

WCW

1—**RIC FLAIR**
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN
2—**LEX LUGER**
(2) 268, Chicago, IL
3—**STING**
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA

4—**BOBBY EATON**
(5) 233, Huntsville, AL
5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
(4) 275, Moscow, Russia
6—**STEVE AUSTIN**
(-) 241, Dallas, TX
7—**BARRY WINDHAM**
(10) 263, Sweetwater, TX

8—**DIAMOND STUDD**
(-) 290, parts unknown
9—**DUSTIN RHODES**
(7) 254, Austin, TX
10—**P.N. NEWS**
(-) 402, Detroit, MI
11—**RON SIMMONS**
(6) 260, Perry, GA

12—**EL GIGANTE**
(8) 435, Argentina
13—**TERRENCE TAYLOR**
(11) 225, Vero Beach, FL
14—**TOM ZENK**
(-) 237, Minneapolis, MN
15—**ONE MAN GANG**
(14) 468, Chicago, IL

WWF

1—**HULK HOGAN**
(1) 302, Venice Beach, CA
2—**CURT HENNIG**
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN
3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
(3) 310, Parris Island, SC

4—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(4) 280, Queens, NY
5—**THE UNDERTAKER**
(6) 320, Dallas, TX
6—**BRET HART**
(-) 235, Calgary, Alberta
7—**THE MOUNTIE**
(9) 232, Montreal, Quebec

8—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
(5) 245, Leeds, England
9—**JAKE ROBERTS**
(7) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
10—**THE WARLORD**
(-) 360, Chicago, IL
11—**BERZERKER**
(-) 316, Bozeman, MT

12—**IRWIN R. SHYSTER**
(10) 245, Syracuse, NY
13—**EARTHQUAKE**
(8) 462, Surrey, BC
14—**BIG BOSSMAN**
(12) 310, Cobb County, GA
15—**KERRY VON ERICH**
(13) 260, Denton, TX

MOST POPULAR

1—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
2—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
3—**SCOTT STEINER**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular

4—**STING**
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
5—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
6—**RICK STEINER**
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
7—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

8—**BOBBY EATON**
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
9—**EL GIGANTE**
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
10—**SID JUSTICE**
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular
11—**P.N. NEWS**
Last month: unrated

12—**JEFF JARRETT**
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
13—**RON SIMMONS**
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular
14—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
15—**STEVE DOLL**
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2—**EARTHQUAKE**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
3—**THE UNDERTAKER**
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated

4—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5—**CURT HENNIG**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
6—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
7—**RICK MORTON**
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated

8—**TYPHOON**
Last month: unrated
9—**STEVE AUSTIN**
Last month: unrated
10—**THE GRAPPLER**
Last month: unrated
11—**IRWIN R. SHYSTER**
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

12—**TOM PRICHARD**
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated
13—**ARN ANDERSON**
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
14—**ONE MAN GANG**
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated
15—**JOHNNY B. BADD**
Last month: unrated

TAG TEAMS

1—**THE NASTY BOYS**
(2) WWF World tag team champions
2—**THE FREEBIRDS**
(4) WCW U.S. tag team champions
3—**ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT**
(6) USWA tag team champions
4—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**
(8) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
5—**THE ORIENT EXPRESS**
(13) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

6—**THE BRUISE BROTHERS**
(10) Pacific Northwest tag team champions
7—**THE YOUNG PISTOLS**
(7) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
8—**DICK MURDOCH & DICK SLATER**
(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title
9—**HIRO HASE & MASA CHONO**
(-) No. 1 contenders: IWGP tag title
10—**TEX SALINGER & MASTER BLASTER**
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

11—**THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES**
(-) IWCCW tag team champions
12—**THE ROCKERS**
(5) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
13—**BRUTE FORCE**
(-) Georgia All-Star tag team champions
14—**POWER & GLORY**
(11) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title
15—**LARRY WINTERS & JOHNNY HOT BODY**
(-) Tri-State tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended June 28, 1991

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(April 20, 1991; from Dynamite Kid & Johnny Smith; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & DAN SPIOVEY
(April 18, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TAKAKO INOUE
(April 29, 1991; from Kyoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishikawa; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: AKIRA HOKUTO
(April 29, 1991; from Suzuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AJA KONG & BISON KIMURA
(April 4, 1991; over Yumiko Hotta & Akira Hokuto for vacant title; Sendai, Japan)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER
(December 22, 1990; tournament final over Rambo; Bremen, Germany)

GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: JOEL DEATON
(April 21, 1991; from Steve Lawler; Canton, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ
(December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR
(August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE
(October 5, 1990; tournament final over Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

* **IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE TASMANIAC**
(June 5, 1991; from Ray Odyssey; Brooklyn, NY)

* **IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES**
(June 1, 1991; from The Madison Brothers; Wolfeboro, NH)

IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH
(by official's decision)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUJI FUJINAMI
(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)

* **IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGHER**
(June 12, 1991; from Norio Honaga; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X
(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI
(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL
(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON & DON HARRIS
(May 3, 1991; tournament final over Rex King & Steve Doll; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
STAN HANSEN & DAN SPIOVEY
(April 18, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS
(May 11, 1991; from The Golden Idol (substituting for Terminator Riggs); Shakopee, MN)

SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VINCE TORELLI
(February 7, 1991; tournament final over Chris Chavis; Nassau, Bahamas)

SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON
(December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)

TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR
(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: AL PEREZ
(February 21, 1991; from Matt Bone; Dallas, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHAUN SIMPSON
(February 10, 1991; by forfeit from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION TEXAS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH
(February 3, 1991; tournament match over Angel of Death; Dallas, TX)

TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE
(September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(March 11, 1991; from Terry Funk; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY
(May 20, 1991; over Bill Dundee for held-up title; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & ROBERT FULLER
(May 13, 1991; from The Texas Hangmen; Memphis, TN)

* **USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD**
(June 7, 1991; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK
(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)

* **UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS**
(June 9, 1991; tournament final over Bam Bam Bigelow; Palmetto, FL)

* **UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN**
(June 9, 1991; over Candi Devine to determine first champion; Palmetto, FL)

* **UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PERRO AGUAYO & EL GRAN HAMADA**
(June 13, 1991; from Brazo De Oro & Brazo De Plata; Tokyo, Japan)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER
(December 16, 1990; from Stan Hansen; St. Louis, MO)

WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FREEBIRDS
(May 19, 1991; tournament final over The Young Pistols; St. Petersburg, FL)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Ric Flair)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(March 9, 1991; from The Freebirds; Montgomery, AL)

WWA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: TATSUJI ONIDA
(May 29, 1991; from Gregory Berichuk; Tokyo, Japan)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC III
(April 20, 1991; from Scott Hall; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.
(March 16, 1991; from Galan Mendoza & Rick Valentine; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA
(May 25, 1991; from Brad Anderson; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & EL BRONCO I
(March 2, 1991; from The Texas Hangmen; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE
(May 11, 1991; from Monster Ripper; Guayanbo, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG
(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

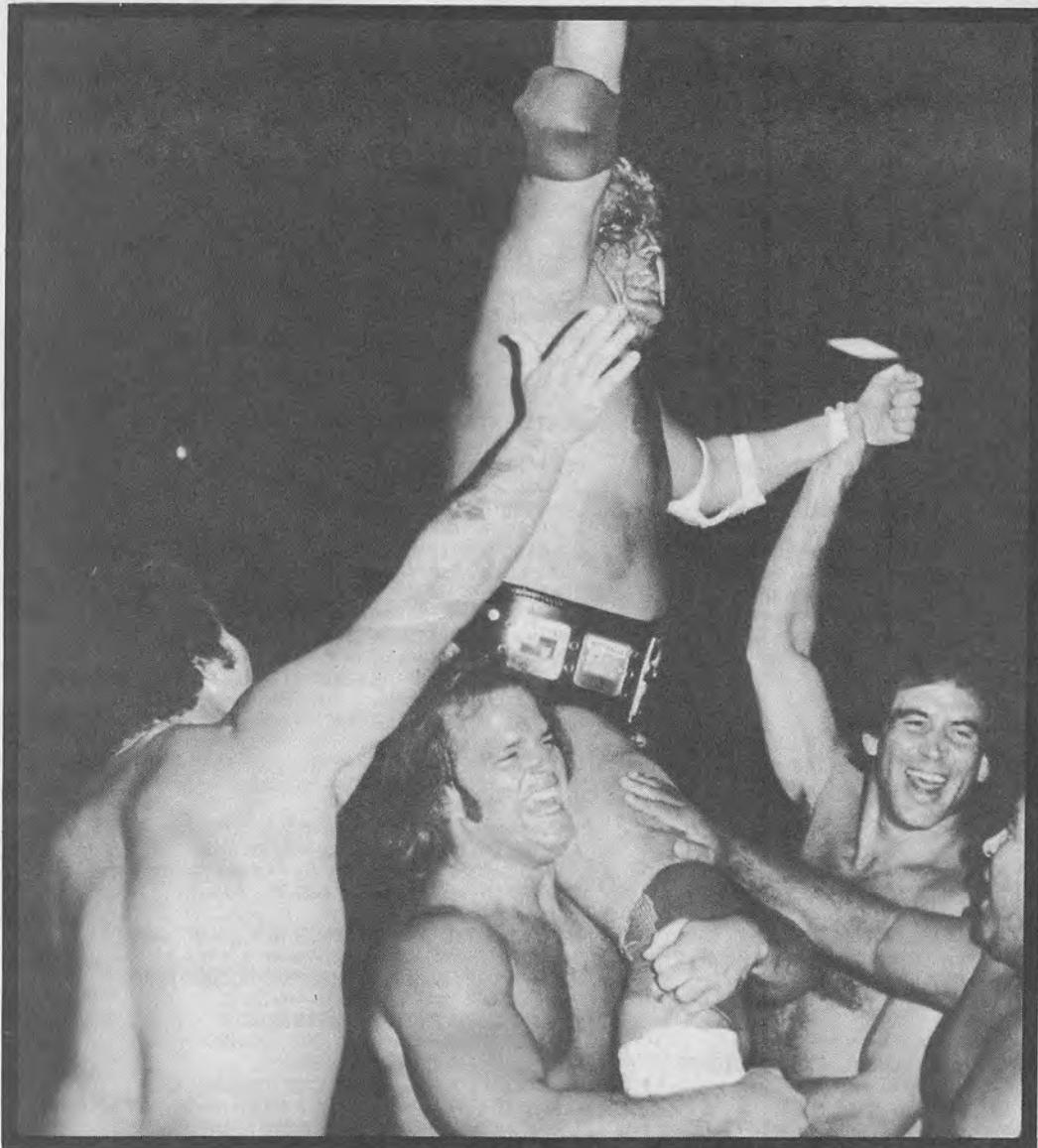
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN
(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS
(March 24, 1991; from Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart; Los Angeles, CA)

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DUSTY RHODES vs. HARLEY RACE

August 21, 1979

In what was considered a major upset, Dusty Rhodes used three “bionic” elbowsmashes and scored a pin on Harley Race to capture the NWA (now WCW) World title at the Fort Hesterly Armory in Tampa, Florida. Race, then a two-time champion, was no match for the “American Dream,” who lusted to capture his first title. However, before Rhodes’ rematch with Race five days later in Orlando, Dusty was attacked by a power-crazed Terry Funk, another former champion. Dusty’s left arm was broken in the attack, but Rhodes refused to pull out of the title defense. Naturally, Dusty lost to Race after just a few minutes of action, bringing a sordid end to a brief—but immensely popular—title tenure.

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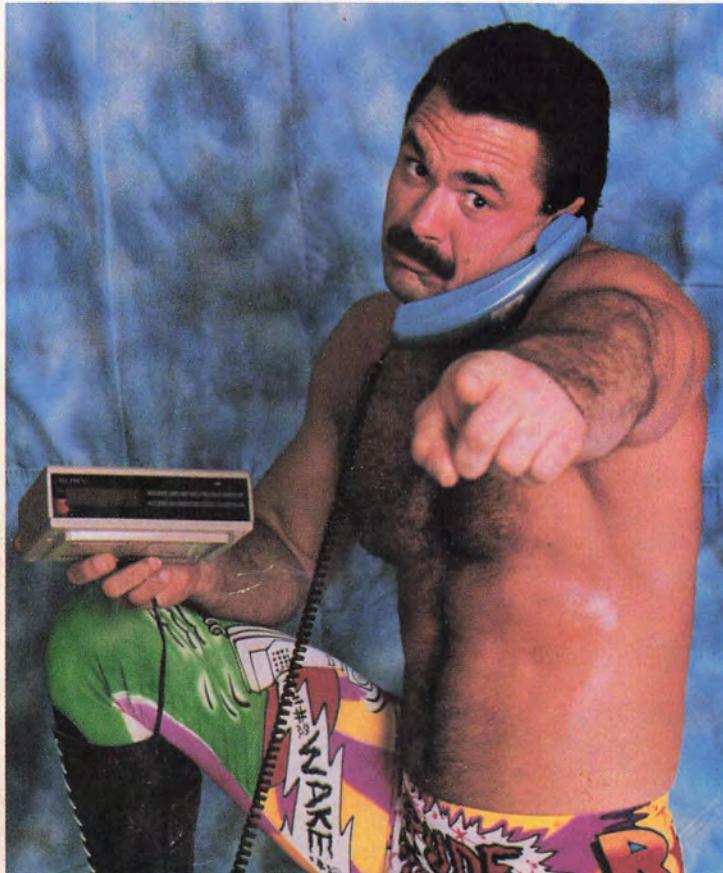
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